

# A "scrumptious" 2006 NLCC will explore Southern food, drink in history, literature, film

NATCHEZ — Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, buttered grits, cornbread, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons.

When mentioned, they actually represent the region. With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film.

What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal?

"You can find out at the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith, of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

In 1990 Smith and Co-Lin founded the NLCC, which has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

The 17th NLCC is set for Feb. 23-26 using the theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Headquarters will be the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez. The last day of the conference, Feb. 26, will feature the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops on the Co-Lin Natchez campus.

Throughout the conference, programs will explore all manner of Southern foods and beverages by some of the top scholars, authors, historians and film experts in the country, Smith said.

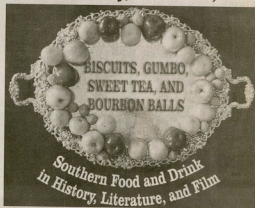
"We are very grateful to John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, for his help in developing the conference program," Smith said.

Edge will speak on fried chicken and other fried foods and will introduce an award-winning documentary film, "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue," by Lolis Eric Elie, New Orleans.

Other speakers are:

- Jessica Harris of New York, author of *Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gifts to New World Cooking*, on foodways of the American South

- John Egerton of Nashville, author of *Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History, Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing*, *Generations: An American*



Family, *The Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America on food in literature, history and film.*

- Amy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance, on the Mississippi hot tamale tradition.

- Robert St. John, of Hattiesburg, *Deep South Staples or How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup*, on the history, traditions, eccentricities, and absurdities of Southern food.

- Gayden Metcalfe, of Greenville, and Charlotte Hays, of Washington, D.C., *Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral*, with a humorous take on how to die in the Delta.

- Martha Foote, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef, Greenwood, cooking to the blues, a cooking demonstration with music by Duff Dorrough, also of Greenwood.

- Judy Hood, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston.

- Kenneth Holditch, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of Williams' "Confessions of a Nightingale," featuring the actor Joe Bonelli of Jackson, and New Orleans.

- A panel discussion on the subject of Southern drinks, including moonshine, mint juleps, Coca-Cola, beer, wine and tea by authors and drink experts.

- Several special meals, receptions and parties featuring the best in Southern food and drink.

Films include Fannie Flagg's "Fried Green Tomatoes," Beth Henley's "Miss Firecracker," and in addition to "Smokestack Lightning,"

the other documentaries, "It's Grits" and "King Cake."

Besides lectures and films, the conference will offer discussion sessions, book signings, exhibits, special meals, a cooking demonstration, writing workshops, a customized bookshop, receptions and parties, Smith said.

Receiving special writing awards Feb. 25 are:

- William Ferris, former director of the National Endowment for the Humanities and now a professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

- Noel Polk, well published Mississippi State University professor of English.

- Beth Henley of Jackson, and Los Angeles, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and filmmaker.

Sponsors of the conference are founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairmen with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoin of MPB.

The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, Jackson, Miss., former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

Most of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and a matching challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Information is available by calling toll-free (866) 296-NLCC (6522) or (601) 446-1289; e-mailing nlcc@colin.edu or visiting the Web site: [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).

# Deadline ahead for writing cafe

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

**NATCHEZ** — All Miss-Lou fifth and sixth graders still have an opportunity to submit creative writing papers for consideration to the Chocolate Milk Café, a program of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

Youngsters whose work is selected will have the opportunity to read their work during the NLCC, and receive special gifts from the NLCC and Copiah-Lincoln Community College, founder of the NLCC and co-sponsor. Also, the work will be in a special book created just for the Chocolate Milk Café.

"This is a marvelous way for young writers to use their creativity and gain recognition," said Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC founder and co-chairman. "The program

will be one the youngsters will never forget."

The final deadline for submitting material is 4 p.m. Wednesday.

The students' work will be evaluated and youngsters selected will be contacted by Co-Lin. The Chocolate Milk Café will be held Saturday, Feb. 25 at the George W. Armstrong Library.

The Friends of the Judge George W. Armstrong Library also are sponsoring the Chocolate Milk Café. Light lunch food and beverages will be served for the event.

The youngsters must submit original work. Creative short stories and creative essays must not exceed 500 words. Poems must not exceed 20 lines and can be in any style verse.

Youngsters may submit directly to Co-Lin through

their parents and/or through their schoolteachers. Home-schooled youngsters may submit as well through their parent(s) or instructors.

The creative works must relate somehow to food to coincide with this year's NLCC theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

All works must have the youngsters' name, address, school and telephone number printed clearly on the back of the paper.

For more information, contact Mark LaFrancis, director of public information at Co-Lin Natchez, at 601-446-1205 or mark.lafrancis@colin.edu.

To make reservations to attend the Chocolate Milk Café, please call the library at 601-445-8862.

Friday, August 5, 2005

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT, Natchez, Miss. 5A

## Southern Quarterly to partner with NLCC

Special to The Democrat

**HATTIESBURG** — The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration and The Southern Quarterly recently announced a publishing partnership between the award-winning annual conference and the University of Southern Mississippi's independent journal of the arts.

Founded in 1990, the Celebration has grown to a five-day literary and cultural event attended by hundreds, sometimes thousands, of people each year.

"All of them love to read and rejoice over books," said Celebration founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith.

The Celebration, held annually in February, presents an annual theme-based lecture series enhanced by films, field trips, workshops, exhibits, book signings and discussions.

The 2005 theme was "Between Two Worlds: Free Blacks in the

### Literary celebration

Antebellum South." The 2006 theme will be "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature and Film." The conference will be held Feb. 22-26.

The Celebration has received numerous awards, including an Olympic Award, the Governor's Award and the Mississippi Tourism Award. The event has been called "Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history and culture."

The Southern Quarterly was founded in 1962 and is one of the first scholarly journals devoted to interdisciplinary study of Southern culture. With a new editorial staff, including Dr. Douglas Chambers of the USM History Department as editor and Ann Branton of Cook Library as managing editor, the Quarterly now will publish each year's papers from the Natchez

Celebration as a special issue.

"As editor of a scholarly journal, I want to build the readership of the Quarterly," Dr. Chambers said. "As a historian I want to help broaden the reach of the Natchez Celebration; and as a resident of Mississippi I want to showcase important cultural events like this in the state and throughout the region."

The Celebration consistently attracts top scholars and noted authorities in Southern history, literature and culture, Chambers said. "We're honored to be a part of the annual conference."

Chambers will join the Celebration Advisory Board.

The Southern Quarterly will publish the previous year's papers in a special issue, Winter/February, to be available for individual purchase at the Celebration. The Quarterly will donate 75 percent of the proceeds of those sales to the Celebration.

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may  
disagree  
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the best  
mint  
julep.  
But most  
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a good  
julep is...



# the Taste of the South

The origin of the mint julep is a serious subject among devotees in Kentucky, Georgia and Virginia, with all three states claiming the famous drink began within their borders.

Let them argue, say fans of the drink in Mississippi. More important are the questions of how to make the storied Southern libation — and how to drink it.

Must it be a silver cup and not glass? Should one stir through a straw or from the rim of the cup (and if it's sterling silver, beware of tooth marks left on the cup)?

For Dr. Robert Barnes and John Bergeron of Natchez, how to make the mint julep recently rose to heights they never would have imagined.

Both have stories to tell about the mint juleps in their past. Bergeron has served juleps to perhaps 50 guests at a time; Barnes, to perhaps 12.

On Feb. 25, however, the two Natchez men face a challenge — preparing mint juleps for up to 200 people during "Tasting the Drinks of the South," a reception at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration sponsored by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss.

The first challenge was finding all the mint beds in town and putting reserve tags on them. Both have their own stock of mint, but they required more.

Next, the two amateur mixologists will have to determine how to enlarge their recipes to create enough "simple syrup" to mix into 200 cups and to make the drinks taste the same as if they were served in the traditional silver julep cups — a requirement for the proper taste, say many aficionados.

Barnes and his wife, Bettina, recalled a serendipitous encounter with julep making during a trip 20 years ago to a small hotel and spa in France, when a famous chef showed up to teach the art of making mint juleps.

"They had 22 varieties of mint right there," Robert Barnes said. "They had lemon, chocolate, spearmint, apple — we tried every kind and came back to the same old Natchez mint as the best. That's spearmint."

For nearly a week, a different julep starred at afternoon cocktails. "We tried whole ice, crushed ice and shaved ice. It's supposed to be shaved ice," Barnes said. "And we tried them in water glasses and wine glasses. We found the silver cup definitely is the best."

Bergeron heartily agreed on that point as he described the years living in Germantown, Tenn., when he and his wife, Valerie, held Derby Day parties.

"We always had Derby parties and served mint juleps," he said. "And we tried the silver cup in ice to have it very cold."

He and Barnes agreed on the process: Make a simple



Dr. Robert Barnes, left, and John Bergeron snip off sprigs of spearmint, one of the mint julep's prime ingredients. Barnes and Bergeron will share their mint julep expertise with patrons of the "Tasting the Drinks of the South" reception at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

SEE TASTE, X

Story by Joan Gandy | Photos by Ben Hillier

may  
disagree  
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But most  
agree  
a good  
julep is...

**BY NANCY DUNN**  
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

**SANTA ANA, Calif.** — Avila tolled for San Juan Capistrano kitchen concoct using an old favor.

A consultant with training in food science set out in 2001 to reformulate, zero-calorie, using erythritol, sugar alcohol. A executive of Ventura San Clemente, Calif. formulated Zowee, selling the diet a month online in five stores in five Florida.

It has not hit big but is expected to said.

"It's just about phlo," he said.

Avila and his partner nearly a \$1 million from Ventura to manufacture a smoothies and made with Zowee.

is making a gradual serious dieters complained of a zero-calorie sugar substitute.

"There's a big there wanting to historic products," a nutritionist for er's Market, which every stores in Calif.

That makes Zowee tioned to become er's dream: a cat.

"If this is a hative that really is might have a great Hillari Dowdle, of Natural Health.

Still, Dowdle said have some "costion hurdles" ma against Splenda.

turned the sugar bet on its head. sales accounted the \$300 million, ing to the latest data from Packa.

Industry watcha da's appeal with been its "made-fa gain and its abn baking.

"Splenda is n they've marketed people think it Little, adding co forced Henry's da.

Avila said he persuade loyal or aspartame be to buy Zowee.

ing other people use artificial swe they have few tives.

"This is an all free solution," A

But nutritionists that most artificial such as Splenda promote a hea because they're take.

"I'm a proper people can use said Stacy Bergeron, a dietitian with New York make supplements in Twinkl and N.

Beil and Linc of the side effects, frequent sugar-free cane and low carb is made with nounced co-RT Little said "car distress" that rhm and blon.

The other bu face is price.

Zowee sells \$5 with \$7.49 for a da of roughly 1

Smith, Carolyn Vance

From: Carol Andersen [carol@mhc.state.ms.us]  
 Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2006 5:13 PM  
 Cc: Carol Andersen; Denise Edmondson  
 Subject: MHC January Newsletter

## Focus on the Humanities

January 2006 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter  
 (Visit our web site at [www.mshumanities.org](http://www.mshumanities.org) to learn more about us.)

### Contents:

- 2006 Annual Awards Dinner Honors Outstanding Humanities Contributions
- RFP Issued for 'New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music' Exhibits
- Next MHC Grant Deadline is March 1
- 'Save America's Treasures' 2006 Grant Program Announced
- 'Between Fences' Tour Moves to Brookhaven
- Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

### 2006 Annual Awards Dinner Honors Outstanding Humanities Contributions

The Mississippi Humanities Council will host its 2006 Annual Awards Dinner Feb. 3, 2006, to present 2005 Public Humanities Achievement Awards and recognize the 2005 Humanities Teacher Awardees. Award categories include Humanities Scholar Award, Public Humanities Achievement Award, Chair's Award for Special Achievements, Special Recognition Award and Humanities Educator Award. Invitations will be mailed to special guests in January. Others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752.

### RFP Issued for 'New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music' Exhibits



The Mississippi Humanities Council invites applications for a Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*. Developed for rural audiences and small museums, libraries, community centers and other nonprofit organizations with limited access to traveling exhibits, *New Harmonies* presents the myriad styles of

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*file NLCC  
publicity***Smith, Carolyn Vance**

**From:** Lemuria, Inc. [lemuria@lemuriabooks.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 26, 2006 10:14 AM  
**To:** Smith, Carolyn Vance  
**Subject:** RE: Talk To The Hand (Jan 18 - Jan 25)

Carolyn- I'm so sorry that I don't save copies of the front of the site, but we did have your conference listed as one of our APB's I believe the 2nd week of January.  
thanks

Joe Hickman  
Lemuria Books  
202 Banner Hall  
4465 I-55 North  
Jackson, Mississippi 39206  
Phone: 601-366-7619  
Fax: 601-366-7784  
www.lemuriabooks.com

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Smith, Carolyn Vance [mailto:Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2006 11:44 AM  
**To:** lemuria@lemuriabooks.com  
**Subject:** RE: Talk To The Hand (Jan 18 - Jan 25)

**To:** John Evans  
**From:** Carolyn Vance Smith, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration  
**Re:** Publicity about the upcoming NLCC

John, when I was in your shop recently with NLCC brochures, you indicated you were going to put the conference on the web site for Lemuria. If you did, I missed it. If you could, please send me a copy of what went out so I can print it for our archives.

Also, is it possible for you to link your site to the NLCC site? It is [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).

Thanks for all you do for us. Come to the conference if you can. It will be the 17<sup>th</sup> and the best so far!!  
Carolyn

**From:** Lemuria, Inc. [mailto:lemuria@lemuriabooks.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 18, 2006 11:02 AM  
**To:** Smith, Carolyn Vance  
**Subject:** Talk To The Hand (Jan 18 - Jan 25)



[www.LemuriaBooks.com](http://www.LemuriaBooks.com)

**Talk to the Hand**

Featured  
Limited Edition

Featured  
Author Event

Featured  
First Edition

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**Smith, Carolyn Vance**

**From:** Smith, Carolyn Vance  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 28, 2006 4:39 PM  
**To:** Colin Everyone  
**Subject:** Invitation

Hello, Everyone!

Looking for a special gift for your favorite Valentine? Here is a way to make happy memories together.

Buy tickets to a festive party called "Dining in Dixie." It will take place 6:15-8:15 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25, 2006, at the Natchez Convention Center.

The party will be a fabulous climax to the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which begins Feb. 23. The Olympic Award-winning conference will use the theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Lectures, discussions, films, meals, and parties will follow the theme throughout the conference, which is mostly free. All activities are open to you and the general public. Visit the web site for complete information: [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).

At "Dining in Dixie," you'll sample the South's favorite foods served from eight elaborate stations. Fresh seafood, finger-lickin' barbecue, Cajun delights, fantastic desserts, and lots, lots more will tempt you.

You'll also enjoy libations, live music, and a fabulous silent auction featuring 14 packages related to food and drink from Memphis to New Orleans.

Bring your wallet and bid on these irresistible auction items, such as weekends in Memphis, Natchez, and New Orleans, cooking lessons by the South's top chefs, Meat of the Month for a Year, and tickets to the 2006 Great River Road Food Festival.

Tickets to "Dining in Dixie" are \$25 and are available by calling 601-446-1289 or toll-free 866-296-6522 or emailing [nlcc tickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlcc tickets@colin.edu).

The event is a benefit for the conference, so bring your loved ones and have a good time together!

See you at the party!

Carolyn Vance Smith  
Founder and Co-chairman, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration  
President, Educational Travel Associates, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1307  
Natchez, MS 39121  
Offices at Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
11 Co-Lin Circle  
Phone 601-446-1208  
Fax 601-446-1214  
Email: [Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu](mailto:Carolyn.Smith@colin.edu)

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# Dining in Dixie

The silent auction to be held during "Dining in Dixie" includes the following packages:

## The Flavor of Memphis

Opening bid of \$275: Two nights, Hampton Inn & Suites at Peabody Place; Meal for two, B.B. King's; Meal for two, Pan-fett's; Tour for two, Graceland; Tour for two, Rock 'N' Soul Museum; Meal for two, other items from Silky O'Sullivan's; Meal for two, Ground Zero, Clarkdale; Tour for two, Delta Blues Museum, Clarkdale

## The Flavor of Natchez

Opening bid of \$375: Two nights for two, Monmouth Plantation; Dinner and tour for two, Monmouth Plantation; Meal for two, The Castle; Meal for two, King's Tavern; Cooking class with Chef Doug Hoffman; lunch and wine for two at High Cotton Cooking School; Tour for two, Stanton Hall; Tour for two, Longwood

## The Flavor of New Orleans

Opening bid of \$350: Two nights, Hotel Provincial in the French Quarter; Meal for two, Galatoire's; Meal for two, Tujague's; Tour for two, D-Day Museum; Four bottles, Pancha Cajun sauce

## Elegance and Charm in the French Quarter:

Opening bid of \$250: Two nights, Royal Orleans Hotel in the French Quarter; Meal for two, Rib Room, Royal Orleans; Tour for two, Louisiana History Museum at The Cabildo; Cooking class with lunch from the New Orleans School of Cooking; Copy of Where in New Orleans magazine

## Fun with Food in Jackson

Opening bid of \$75: Meal for two, Nick's restaurant; Meal for two, Hal & Matt's restaurant; Cooking class for two, Everyday Gourmet; Basket with certificate for fresh seafood plus selected food items from New Orleans Fish House

## Meat of the Month for 12 Months

Opening bid of \$150: 10 pounds of selected meat each month from The Markets in Natchez, Vidalia or McComb, including pork roast, lamb or Cornish hen, ham, bacon and sausage, pork chops, ribs, veal cutlets, turkey and standing rib roast

## Spring Picnic

Opening bid: \$40: Basket filled with cups, napkins, tablecloth, forks, knives, gift certificate for picnic food for four, Updown Grocery in Natchez; Ice chest from Stone

A feast for the senses — a visual delight and gastronomical treat — is what organizers of "Dining in Dixie" envision.

The two-hour event, 4:15 to 8:15 p.m. on Feb. 25 at the Natchez Convention Center will be the climax of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration and is expected to draw up to 500 people, said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the NLCC.

"This smorgasbord of traditional Southern foods will be prepared with the highest quality ingredients, garnishes and accoutrements," Smith said.

Furthermore, the large main hall of the convention center will be transformed by lavish decorations and displays in keeping with the theme of the conference, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Savory Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature and Film."

Chefs preparing the dishes include some of Mississippi's finest, and dishes will include seafood, barbecue, hot breads, Cajun dishes such as jambalaya, fried Southern specialties such as chicken, favorite Southern vegetables and sweet treats.

"For \$25, this is a two-hour dining experience, all you can eat," Smith said. "There will be live music and a silent auction. We want to remind people to bring their wallets and their checkbooks."

The silent auction equals the dining experience in its lavish offerings, including two-night vacations for two in Southern cities such as Memphis, New Orleans and Natchez and other packages such as a

### THE DETAILS

**WHAT:** "Dining in Dixie" gala benefit reception and buffet supper

**WHEN:** 4:15 to 8:15 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25

**WHERE:** Natchez Convention Center

**COST:** \$25 per person. To purchase tickets E-mail at [Chrissy.Williams@nlcc.com](mailto:Chrissy.Williams@nlcc.com)

or call 601-446-1289 or 866-296-NLCC

**INFO:** Details of all NLCC events can be found at [www.cottonedindixie.com](http://www.cottonedindixie.com)

## The Ultimate Southern Culinary Weekend in Natchez:

Opening bid of \$650: Two rooms for two nights, Twin Oaks; Casual meal for four, Twin Oaks; Breakfast for four on two mornings, The Castle at Dunleith; Twin Oaks; Lunch for four at the Carriage House; Cooking class for four at Twin Oaks with Chef Regina Charbonneau, followed by a classic dinner

## Fido Loves Good Food, Too

Opening bid of \$50: Pet food; Fancy dish from Fydeaux's; Pet supplies and toys from Fydeaux's; Soft bed

## Re-Invent Your Kitchen

Opening bid of \$400: Several items of Calphalon cookware from McKee's Bell; Two place settings china; Two place settings glassware; Two place settings, napkins, Tablecloth; Kitchen knives; Small appliances

## Two tickets to the 2006 Great River Road Food Festival

Opening bid of \$140: Two tickets, Aug. 4 party; Two tickets, Aug. 5 luncheon; Two tickets, Aug. 5 celebrity chef dinner

## Ticketed Events NLCC, 2007-2009:

Opening bid of \$150: Southern Accents: Language in the Deep South; Feb. 2007; "Richard Wright, the South and the World: A Centennial Celebration," Feb. 2008; "100 Years of the Southern Women Writers: Celebrating the Centennial of Eudora Welby's Birth," Feb. 2009

## Wine Tasting Really South of the Mason-Dixon Line

Opening bid of \$50: Four Waterford wine glasses, Hal Garner Antiquary; Bottle Argentine Mendoza Malbec; Bottle New Zealand Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc; Brancott; Bottles Moss Scarlett and Natchez Rouge; Old South Winery; Bottle Biltmore Estate Sirah; Large basket, bar napkins, Monmouth Gift Shop; Copy, Wine Spectator

## Fridge Full of Cakes

Opening bid of \$40: Under-the-counter small refrigerator from Home Depot; Brookhaven Two-piece Coca-Cola products

## Burning Up Calories on Golf

Opening bid of \$150: Overnight lodging for four, Billy B. Thurnes Conference Center, Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson; Round of golf for four, Wolf Hollow golf Course, Co-Lin Wesson

Story by Joan Gandy | Photo by Ben Hillyer

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**Smith, Carolyn Vance**

**From:** McLemore, Nancy  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 02, 2006 8:34 AM  
**To:** Natchez Everyone  
**Subject:** NLCC Bib

These books are on display in the library.  
Eat, drink, and be merry... and of course, read!

Willie Mae Dunn Library  
Bibliography  
Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration

*Well, I'll eat it, said Alice*

Bailey, Lee. Lee Bailey's southern food & plantation houses: favorite Natchez recipes. 1990 (641.5975/B155)

Bailey, Freddie. Aunt Freddie's pantry: southern style preserves, jellies, chutneys, conserves, pickles, relishes, sauces—and what goes with them. 1984 (641.81/B152a)

Bedwell, Randall J. Christmas in the South: yuletides not forgotten. 1998 (394.2663/B413c)

Black family reunion cookbook: recipes & food memories from the National Council of Negro Women. 1991 (641.59/B561)

Cheney, Winifred Green. Cooking for company. 1985 (641.5/C421c)

Claiborne, Craig. Craig Claiborne's southern cooking. 1987 (641.5/C521s)

Combread nation 1: the best of southern food writing. 2002 (641.30975/C812)

Courtney, Parker. How to eat like a Southerner and live to tell the tale. 1991 (641.59/P223h)

Edge, John T. Apple pie, an American story. 2004 (641.8652/E23a)

---. Fried chicken, an American story. 2004 (641.665/E23f)

---. Hamburger & fries, an American story. 2005 (641.665/E23h)

Egerton, John. Generations: an American family. 2003 (929.2/E29g)

---. Southern food: at home, on the road, in history. 1993 (641.5975/E29s)

---. The Southernization of America. 1974 (917.5034/E29a)

Elie, Lolis Eric. Smokestack lightning: adventures in the heart of barbeque country. 2005 (641.578/E42s)

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file MCC pub.

220 South Commerce Street  
Natchez, MS 39120  
8 February 2006

Dear Mrs. Smith,

Please accept a very belated thank-you from the Friends of the Library for your donation to the Christmas Tour of Homes. It was an outstanding success in spite of the weather; we are sorry you were unable to attend.

By now you should have gotten our first ever membership booklet and can see that we have an eventful year planned, including an event during the Literary Celebration, the Poetry reading contest, the membership party and of course another Christmas Tour of Homes.

Thank you for your continued support of this organization.

Sincerely,

Ella

Ella M. Young, membership chair

## Literary event a sell-out; other tickets getting scarce

BY JOHN LARSEN  
STAFF WRITER

**NOTICE** — One featured during the National Literary and Christmas Celebrations already is a sell-out, and tickets are getting scarce for a second, said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the event.

"Tickets are sold out for 'Henry's Table of 50 of Food Favorites,' a buffet dinner w/ a live music by the choir at Knox Chapel AME Church,"

Smith said.

The event, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Feb. 24, is open to 50 people, with no way to accommodate additional people, said Fredericka Bold, a Knox Chapel member and chairman of the dinner.

Tickets are almost sold out for lunch at the Carriage House followed by a program, "Show us the in the Delta," by Gaylene Morris and Charlene May, authors of "Rising Deep in the River: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Raising the Perfect Parent."

The Carriage House event is set to begin at 11:45 a.m. Feb. 25.

"To accommodate additional people by using both the Katherine M. Johnson and the Queen's Room at the Carriage House, a change in format will take place," Smith said.

The program will take place at the Manning Convention Center at 11:30 a.m.

Ticket buyers for the programs and lunch will receive seated, while others have the standing room.

The program will be presented and, afterwards, those holding tickets will go to the Carriage House for lunch, she said.

The afternoon program lunch at the convention center will begin at 1:45 p.m. rather than 1:30 p.m., allowing plenty of time for those attending at the Carriage House.

"We are excited about the attention this conference is receiving," Smith said. "We expect large crowds at all events."

**Your opinion**

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PROCESSING STORES

2006 part 1  
page 25



## NLT presents one-act play weekends

The 58th season of the Natchez Little Theatre presents "Weekends of One-Acts" by and about Tennessee Williams over three weekends during February. This weekend, I will make my Natchez Little Theatre directing debut with two Tennessee Williams' one-act plays: "27 Wagons Full of Cotton" and "This Property is Condemned."

The play "27 Wagons Full of Cotton" examines the relationship between Jake, played by Casey Gilbert of Vidalia, and Flora, portrayed by Victoria McGaughey of Natchez, in rural Mississippi, and was the basis for the film "Baby Doll," that starred Carol Baker and Karl Malden.



TOP OF THE  
MORNING

Ryan McGaughey

"This Property is Condemned" tells the tragic story of two young people living in Depression-era Mississippi. Willie, a girl who has hit upon bad times, played by Natchez High School sophomore, Nicole Ballard, recounts her tale to a local boy,

Tom, played by Trinity Episcopal Day School student, Dwight Williams, in what is one of Tennessee Williams' most personal plays. This one-act was developed into a film of the same title starring a young Natalie Wood and Robert Redford.

These two one-act plays will be performed without intermission at 7:30 on Friday and Saturday evenings, and close with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. The sets are designed and constructed by Don Vesterse. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$12 for senior citizens & young people; \$10 for NLT Benefactors & Patrons; and free for NLT Grand Benefactor and Life-Time Members.

"Suddenly Last Summer," Tennessee Williams' most famous one-act opens the following weekend, Feb. 17-19. Directed by NLT Executive & Artistic Director, Layne Taylor, with set design and construction by Don Vesterse, "Suddenly Last Summer" was originally presented Off-Broadway with "Something Unspoken" under the collective title "Garden District" in New York City, in 1958. The play is a haunting spell that is virtually hypnotic in its compelling power. A startling proof of what a man can do with words — this brief, withering play is a superb achievement. The film of the same title starred Katherine Hepburn, Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Cliff.

"Suddenly Last Summer" will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17-18, and closes with a 2 p.m. matinee on Feb. 19. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$12 for senior citizens and young people; \$10 for NLT Benefactors & Patrons; and free for NLT Grand Benefactor and Life-Time Members.

"Confessions of a Nightingale" written by Charlotte Chandler and Ray Stricklyn opens at 8:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Natchez Convention Center as a part of the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration. For this performance all tickets are \$15 with the exception of Natchez Little Theatre Grand Benefactor and Corporate Sponsors, who will be admitted free. Tickets for this one performance can be reserved by calling the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration at 6010446-1208. The

2006 part 1  
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# Ferris, Polk, Henley to receive NLCC awards

BY JOAN CANOY  
THE MERCURY/BEAUCON

**MAINE**—Three well-known Southern writers will receive top honors at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to be held Feb. 23-26 at the Natchez Convention Center.

William Ferris and Noel Polk are winners of the annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award. Beth Henley will receive the Horton Foote Award for achievement in screenwriting.

Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran will present the winners at a p.m. Feb. 23. Cochran also will be the master of ceremonies at the awards program.

Sen. Cochran knows all three of these award winners, and he is a huge supporter of the humanities," said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Celebration.

Ferris, perhaps best known for



Ferris

"Encyclopedia of Southern Culture," which he co-edited with Charles Wilson, for nearly 20 years was director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi.

He now is senior associate director at the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Polk, a professor of English at Mississippi,



Polk

SEE MARCH 31

Mississippi State University and editor of *The Mississippi Quarterly* taught at the University of South Mississippi from 1970 to 2000.

Mississippi has featured on Mississippi writers William Faulkner and Eudora Welty throughout the world.

Henley, a native of Jackson, received with



Henley

## SAVE A CHILD'S LIFE: Learn

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2006

### AWARDS: Natchez Literary, Cinema Celebration honorees to receive medals at 'Evening with the Stars' gala Feb. 25

FROM PAGE 1A

acclaim for her first professionally produced play, "Crimes of the Heart," which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play of 1981.

Henley's screenplay "Miss Firecracker," starring Holly Hunter, Mary Steenburgen and Tim Robbins, will be aired at the Celebration, with a discussion afterward.

The winners were surprised and pleased when notified about the awards, Smith said.

"All three immediately said they could be here to accept the award and were looking forward to the conference," she said.

Polk said he is honored to receive the Richard Wright award.

"I'm very proud to be honored in this way by the people in my home state," he said.

"It's always a hoot to come to Natchez for any reason, but to come to get an award makes it doubly sweet."

For Ferris, also, a chance to come to Natchez is pleasing, he said.

"Growing up on a farm in Warren County near the Natchez Trace, I often traveled to Natchez and have warm memories of my visits to the city," Ferris said.

"It is a special honor to receive the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award," he added.

He described Wright as one of the greatest writers of the 20th century, who "rose above poverty and racial discrimination to create a literary achievement equivalent to that of Mississippi's other literary giants, William Faulkner, Eudora Welty and Tennessee Williams."

The Wright award, established in 1994, honors the man born near Natchez in 1908, the son of a country schoolteacher and an uneducated sharecropper.

Wright's first novel, "Native Son," published in 1940, was an immediate success. His "Black Boy," a fictionalized autobiography was published in 1945.

The book sold 400,000 copies in three months.

The Foote award, established in 2002, honors the Oscar-winning and Pulitzer Prize-winning writer known for such screenplays as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Of Mice and Men."

A committee chooses winners of both the Wright and Foote awards. David Sansing of the University of Mississippi is chairman of the Wright committee; actor and Mississippi native Gerald McRaney is chairman of the Foote award.

The three winners will be guests of honor on Feb. 25 at 5 p.m. for "An Evening with the Stars," when they will receive awards and sign books, with a gala buffet dinner, "Dining in Dixie," afterward at 6:15.

2006 part 1  
page 27

## Celebrate Library Lovers' Month at the library

**L**ibrary Lovers' Month is a month-long celebration of libraries of all types. This is a time for everyone to recognize the value of libraries and to work to assure that the Nation's libraries will continue to serve.

How do you love your library? Let us count the ways. Contribute at your library by donating time, money, or expertise. Be a friend at your library by joining the Friends of the Library for only \$10 a year. Volunteer at your library by giving time to help out. Promote your library by selling everyone you know how wonderful your library is. More specific ideas will be posted in your library.

We will be celebrating Library Lovers Month by giving out special bookmarks. This collection of ten different bookmarks have library loving sayings like "You're the best chapter in my life," "My love speaks volumes," and "You can tell a book by its cover."

You may have a free bookmark with each book you check out. Check out

### What's happening! @ your library

enough books, and you can collect all ten bookmarks.

Here's a wonderful idea for a Valentine's Day present that doesn't cost a thing: check out a book for your lover with one of our bookmarks inserted.

Taking the time to select a book you think your lover will appreciate combined with a mushy bookmark is guaranteed to impress.

**CHOCOLATE MILK CAFE.** In February, the Friends of the Library, along with Copiah Lincoln Community College, will sponsor the Chocolate Milk Cafe: Young Writers Share Food for Thought, readings of original works by Miss Lou students during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

The project involves youngsters in the fifth and sixth grades in Adams County and Concordia Parish writing original creative works (essays, poems, short stories, etc.) centered

on a food theme. Selected authors will be invited to read or perform their works at the Library at 1 p.m. Feb. 25 before an audience. The setting will be casual and "coffee house" style. There will be light foods available. Also, the youngsters' works will be published in a limited edition booklet of their work. Those selected will receive a special gift for their achievement.

This is an exciting way for budding authors to be stimulated and recognized. Teachers have been asked to promote the program with their students and the students' parents and to select five students' works for consideration.

A special screening committee will review the recommendations and then select the works to be read by the writers (about a dozen). Mark LaFrancis, a Natchez author and the coordinator of this event, will coach the youngsters about how to deliver their written works effectively.

The Chocolate Milk Cafe is free and open to the public. However, registration

is required. Just call the Library at 601.445.8862 or email us at [armstrong@naw.lib.ms.us](mailto:armstrong@naw.lib.ms.us). This may be your chance to see a future Pulitzer Prize winner!

**NEW LOOK FOR THE LIBRARY FIRST FLOOR.** Also in February, your Library will be redesigning the layout of the first floor, which will include some new furniture.

We hope to accomplish this over a weekend, but it might be necessary to close for a day.

The Natchez Adams Wilkinson Library Service consists of three branches: Armstrong Library in Natchez (the headquarters of the library system), Van Cleave Library in Centerville, and Woodville Public Library in Woodville.

The Armstrong Library is located at 220 South Commerce in Natchez, and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

You can call us at 601.445.8862 or visit us online [www.naw.lib.ms.us](http://www.naw.lib.ms.us).

Mississippi's Best Community Daily Newspaper

## Sign up to win NLCC prize packages

**P**ut your lucky penny in your shoe, tuck your rabbit's foot in your pocket, wish upon your lucky star and pull out your shamrocks. When all your lucky charms are in place, buy a Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration raffle ticket for a chance to win one of four spectacular packages. At the same time, you will help the NLCC efforts to match a \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This year's theme is "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls" so, of course, the packages contain great food and drink.

The River Explorer package, valued at more than \$5,000 and donated by RiverBarge Excursion Lines Inc. of New Orleans, features a trip on the River Explorer, the only hotel barge on America's waterways.

The winner will choose a trip for two from an extensive list of itineraries in seven geographic regions. The all-inclusive package includes accommodations with a river view, all meals, snacks, coffee and soft drinks, all gratuities, taxes, port charges and scheduled shore activities. The regional food on board is terrific.

The Sunset over Natchez package includes a sunset flight courtesy of Borum Aviation and a beautifully crafted, picnic quilt donated by Eddie Walker (Carr) Hosford's mom), a master quilter from Walla Walla, Wash.

The package also includes a picnic basket filled with wine and goodies perfect for an evening cocktail party on the bluff.

Celebrate with a portrait sitting from T.G. McCary.

The Books, Movie and Theater package offers fantastic evening entertainment with two Grand Benefactor Level tickets for the 2006-2007 season of the Natchez Little Theater.

For those stay-at-home nights, enjoy a wide array of books, movies and compact discs featuring winners of the Horton Foote award for screen writing and others involved with the NLCC, including a script of *Sling Blade* autographed by Billy Bob Thornton.

What's a movie without popcorn? Enjoy a



**TOP  
OF THE  
MORNING**  
Maria

Bowser

microwave full of popcorn courtesy of Wal-Mart.

The Collectible Cookbooks package embraces the theme of food and drink. This package includes many cookbooks compiled by numerous Natchez organizations, past and present. It has some coffee table-style cookbooks and special out-of-print cookbooks donated by Charles Hall of Cover to Cover.

Aprons, cookbook holders and other cooking tools make cooking fun. A chocolate machine, also from Wal-Mart, adds a touch

of sweetness.

The generosity of many people and businesses has made these packages possible.

In addition to those already named, thanks to Uptown Grocery; One of a Kind, Darby's, Backbusters, Cover to Cover, Maxwell Printing, Sue Moeser and my good buddies, the Divine Divas of Raffles, Micki Hartley, Linda Ogden and Shirley Petkovsek.

Now that you are really feeling lucky, how do you go about getting a raffle ticket? Most importantly, you do not have to be present to win.

Tickets may be purchased in the lobby of the Natchez Convention Center during the NLCC program hours starting at 9 a.m. Feb. 23 until drawing time on the evening of Feb. 25.

You may buy raffle tickets in advance by calling me at 601-445-2153, or visit at the Chamber of Commerce, the Grand Village or Cheryl Tipton at Friends Salon on Franklin Street. Cheryl will the RiverBarge trip last year. She will attest to the value of one ticket.

And, just so everyone is a winner, with each raffle ticket comes a coupon good for one free book at the Friends of the Library book sale. Lucky or not, who can resist a free book?

Support a worthy cause. Buy a raffle ticket and keep your fingers crossed.

MARIA BOWSER is a Natchez resident.

# OPINION

[www.natchezdemocrat.com](http://www.natchezdemocrat.com)

Mississippi's Best Community Daily Newspaper

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2006

## Conference offers CEUs for teachers

Faculty and staff in Mississippi's schools are eligible to earn 2.8 Continuing Education Units for attending the upcoming 17th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.

The conference theme this year is "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film." Among more than two dozen speakers are John T. Edge and John Egerton, food experts and authors; Beth Henley, playwright and screenplay writer; Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays, authors of the hilarious *Dying Is No Excuse*, a book about favorite funeral foods; Martha Foose, executive chef at the Viking Cooking School, Greenwood; and Natchez's own Joseph Dumas, now of New York City, a wine scholar and magazine writer.

This award-winning, mostly free conference will begin with opening ceremonies at 9 a.m., Feb. 23, and end with post-conference writing workshops ending at 1 p.m. Feb. 26.

A CEU registration fee of \$75 per person covers costs of CEU verification as well as costs of several ticketed sessions Feb. 23-26.

If a person cannot attend the entire conference, CEUs are available for the number of actual hours in attendance, from .1 unit for one hour up to 2.7 units for up to 27 hours. For partial credit, the CEU fee of \$65 applies, no matter the number of hours received.

To register for CEU credit, a person must



**TOP  
OF THE  
MORNING**

Beverly  
Raines

send name, address and phone number along with a check for \$75 or \$65 made out to Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to Beverly Raines, chairwoman, NLCC CEU Committee, Natchez-Adams School District, P.O. Box 1188, Natchez, MS 39121. More information about CEU credit is available by calling Beverly Raines at 601-445-2824.

Information about the Celebration is available by visiting the web site, [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc); e-mailing [nlccickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlccickets@colin.edu); or calling 601-445-1289 or toll-free

866-296-6522.

The conference is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting, with partial funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Serving for the 17th time as Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the Board of Trustees, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

**BEVERLY RAINES** is human resources manager for the Natchez-Adams School District.

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# Southern writers to get literary, cinema awards

The Associated Press

Three Southern writers will be honored at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration later this month.

William Ferris and Noel Polk are winners of the annual Richard Wright Literary Excellence Award, and Beth Henley will receive the Horton Foote Award for achievement in screenwriting. U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran will present the awards Feb. 25 at the Natchez Convention Center.

Ferris is perhaps best known for the *Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, which he co-edited with Charles Wilson. For nearly 20 years, he was director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. Ferris now is senior associate director at the Center for the Study of the American South at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Polk, a professor of English at Mississippi State University and editor of *The Mississippi Quarterly*, taught at the University of Southern Mississippi from 1977 to 2004. He has given lectures throughout the world on Mississippi writers William Faulkner and Eudora Welty.

Polk said he is honored to receive the Richard Wright award. "I'm very proud to be honored in this way by the people in my



Ferris

## NATCHEZ

"It's always a hoot to come to Natchez for any reason, but to come to get an award makes it doubly sweet."

Noel Polk, author



home state," he said. "It's always a hoot to come to Natchez for any reason, but to come to get an award makes it doubly sweet."

Henley, a native of Jackson, received wide acclaim for her first professionally produced play, *Crimes of the Heart*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best American Play of 1981.

Henley's screenplay, *Miss Firecracker*, starring Holly Hunter, Mary Steenburgen and Tim Robbins, will be aired at the event.

For Ferris, a chance to come to Natchez was wonderful, he said.

"Growing up on a farm in Warren County near the Natchez Trace, I often traveled to Natchez and have warm memories of my visits to the city," Ferris said.

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page 31



Publicity

Rotary auction - copy to Beth R 12/12



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NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION, FEB. 23-26, 2006

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6:15-8:15 P.M.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2006**

**NATCHEZ CONVENTION CENTER**

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## *NOTES*

- TO CLAIM YOUR TICKETS TO "DINING IN DIXIE," CALL 601-446-1289, TOLL-FREE 866-296-NLCC, OR EMAIL [NLCCtickets@colin.edu](mailto:NLCCtickets@colin.edu).
- INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN YOUR PARTY! FOR MORE TICKETS, SEND A CHECK FOR \$25 PER TICKET TO NLCC TICKETS, P.O. BOX 1307, NATCHEZ, MS 39121. PUT ON THE CHECK WHAT IT IS FOR.
- PLAN TO ATTEND THE FREE WRITING AWARDS CEREMONY AT 5 P.M., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, AT THE CONVENTION CENTER. "DINING IN DIXIE" BEGINS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY ENDS.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE 2006 NLCC, GO TO [WWW.COLIN.EDU/NLCC](http://WWW.COLIN.EDU/NLCC). MOST OF THE CONFERENCE IS FREE OF CHARGE.

***BON APPETIT!***

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# FEBRUARY

# 2006

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <small>Crowning Day</small>	3	4 <small>Kisses of Alex Grant Ball</small>
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <small>Kisses of James March Grant Ball</small>
12	13	14 <small>Valentine's Day</small>	15	16 <small>Kisses of Alpha Phi March Grant Ball</small>	17 <small>Kisses of Phoenix March Grant Ball</small>	18 <small>Kisses of Alpha Phi March Grant Ball</small>
19 <small>President's Day</small>	20	21	22 <small>Natchez Literary &amp; Cinema Celebration Feb. 22 - Feb. 27</small>	23	24	25 <small>River City Classic 10K/5K</small>
26 <small>Black History Month Field Trip at 11:00am Jefferson College - February 12th. Admission is free. Vintage Valentine and Scrapbooks original to Roadie - February 4-26 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration - February 22-26. 17th Annual award winning conference. Community Hospital City Classic - February 26. Registration begins at 9:00 am.</small>	27	28				

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**The Democrat**  
Your Life. Your News. Your Voice.

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# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

A Reception

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006

Natchez Museum of African-American Culture

301 Main Street

\$10



# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

A Luncheon Followed by a Program,

"How to Die in the Delta," by Gayden Metcalfe, Greenville, Miss.,  
and Charlotte Hays, Washington, D.C.

11:45 a.m., Friday, Feb. 24, 2006

Carriage House at Stanton Hall

401 High Street

\$20



# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

A Performance of Confessions of a Nighthale  
by Tennessee Williams

Featuring the Actor Joe Bonelli, New Orleans, La.  
in Cooperation with the Natchez Little Theatre

8:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 24, 2006

Natchez Convention Center

211 Main Street

\$15

*Admit One*

# Chocolate Milk Cafe: Young Writers Share Food for Thought

Saturday, February 25, 2006

Judge George W. Armstrong Library, 220 S. Commerce St.

12:30 p.m. - with picnic lunch

*Sponsored by*

*The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*

*Copiab-Lincoln Community College*

*Friends of the Armstrong Library*



# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

"Dining in Dixie," a Gala Benefit Reception and Buffet Supper

Featuring Southern Food and Drink  
with Live Music, Silent Auction, and Raffle

Honoring Award Winners and Speakers

6:15 - 8:15 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006

Natchez Convention Center

211 Main Street

\$25



# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

Presents

Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops

8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 26, 2006

Reception, 10:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Copiab-Lincoln Community College

30 Campus Drive

\$15

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page 34

NATCHEZ

# City hosting tourism conference

BY NITA MCCANN  
THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

**NATCHEZ** — Natchez is preparing to host one of the state tourism industry's biggest events of the year.

The Mississippi Tourism Association and the state Division of Tourism will host the Governor's Conference on Tourism Feb. 25-28 at the Natchez Convention Center.

Participants will include representatives of convention and visitors bureaus, owners of tourism-related businesses, tour operators and the like — 250 to 300 in all.

The event will include seminars on topics ranging from marketing trends to destination weddings; time for networking among tourism professionals; and a luncheon keynote speech by Gov. Haley Barbour.

Rene Adams, a founder of the chamber's

## THE DETAILS

### THE GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON TOURISM

will include a variety of seminars, networking time and a luncheon keynote speech by Gov. Haley Barbour.

SEE TOURISM, 1A



## WHAT'S OUTSIDE



**Mostly cloudy,**  
still cold  
Hi 40, Lo 36

10A

CELEBRATIONS  
CLASSIFIEDS  
OBITUARIES  
OPINION

HO  
ADVERTISING 44  
CIRCULATION 44

## TOURISM: Locals asked to help clean up city before event

FROM PAGE 1A

Tourism Council and member of the Convention Promotion Commission, said the public is being asked to spruce up the city's appearance before the event.

"We're asking business owners to help clean up our main thoroughfares, especially in front of their businesses," she said.

"We're hoping to do a clean-up similar to what we would do before Spring Pilgrimage, not just for this but for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, which is also coming up," Tourism Director Walter Tipton said.

Hosting the event is important for several reasons, Tipton said.

If staffers from other CVBs are impressed with Natchez, they could recommend tourists traveling through their towns make Natchez part of their routes.

Tour operators could also plan stops in Natchez, depending on what they see.

And Tipton's hoping that if participants like their experience here, the conference might return, perhaps after a convention-grade hotel is built across from the convention center.

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# Literary event starts this week

BY JOHN GANDY  
THE NACHEZ DEMOCRAT

**NACHEZ** — The Natchez Literary and Chinese Celebration begins Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main St., a four-day event packed with lectures, demonstrations and plenty of opportunities to taste Southern food and drink.

Following the theme, "Biscuits,

Gumbo, Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature and Film," the Celebration features some of the best-known experts in Southern foods and traditions, said Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman.

Smith said response to the theme has been overwhelming.

"When people hear about food, they light up. I am astounded

at the hundreds of people who are coming to this year's conference," she said. "I think the draw is a combination of beautiful Natchez and the subject of food."

The conference concludes on Sunday at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez with the Ellen Douglas writing work-

SH LITERARY, 3A

## THE DETAILS

**What:** Natchez Literary and Chinese Celebration

**When:** Thursday-Sunday

**Where:** Natchez Convention Center, Thursday-Saturday; Co-Lin, Sunday

**Who:** Anyone may attend.

**How:** Most of the conference is free, only a few ticketed events, including three meals and a play, require tickets. For more details, call 601-446-1289.

## LITERARY: Tickets still available for most Celebration events, director says

FROM PAGE 1D

shops, \$15 at the door, and a reception honoring Douglas.

Leading the workshops will be Joseph Dumas of Natchez and New York and Amy Evans of the University of Mississippi.

Only a few events require tickets, Smith said. "There has been some confusion about which events are sold out and which are still open," she said.

Most of the conference is free because of support by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council and sponsorship by Co-Lin, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

The only activities requiring a ticket are three meals, a play and the writing workshops, all of which are low in cost, Smith said.

To date, the only event that is sold out is the seed food supper at Zion Chapel AME Church on Friday 6:30 to 8:15. "There was a limit of 100 people, and all the tickets were sold," Smith said.

About 15 tickets remain for the pro-

## NILEC SUPPORTERS

### MOST OF THE CONFERENCE IS FREE

because of support by a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council and sponsorship by Co-Lin, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

gram "How to Die in the Delta" by Gayden Metcalfe and Charlotte Hays, authors of the book "Dying Is No Excuse."

That program is 11:45 a.m. Friday at the convention center. Lunch afterwards will be at the Carriage House. Tickets for the program and lunch are \$20.

"Bonnie Woodward at the Carriage House will carry out the theme by serving biscuits, gumbo, tea and bourbon balls plus fried chicken, chicken salad, tomato soup, frozen fruit salad and pecan tarts — all very, very Southern," Smith said.

"Once again at this conference, we'll learn a lot while having a wonderful time."

About 100 tickets are available for the

Tennessee Williams play "Confessions of a Nightingale," starring Joe Bonelli of Mississippi Public Broadcasting, to be presented 8:30 p.m. Friday. Tickets are \$35 each for the play, which will be at the convention center in cooperation with Natchez Little Theatre.

About 100 tickets are available for Dining in Dixie, a food extravaganza by 18 well-known Southern chefs. Tickets for the event, 4:35 to 8:15 p.m. Saturday at the convention center, are \$25 each.

"More than 400 people already have tickets to this fund-raising event, which will honor Sen. Thad Cochran and award winners Bill Ferris, Noel Polk and Beth Hendley," Smith said.

"Proceeds will benefit the Celebration's challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities."

An unlimited number of tickets, \$30 each, are available at the door for a reception at the Natchez Museum of African-American History and Culture at 5:30 p.m. Thursday.

Also, unlimited tickets are available at the door for the two Sunday writing workshops at Co-Lin.

Tickets are available by telephone, 601-446-1289 or 800-226-0322, or by e-mail to [slitickets@coledu.edu](mailto:slitickets@coledu.edu).

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## Publication of 2006 NLCC Papers

Papers from the 2006 NLCC  
will be published in the Winter 2007 issue  
of the *Southern Quarterly*.

Please sign a list at the information desk  
if you wish to be notified  
when this issue is available.



# REGION

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006

THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

www.thenatchez.com 3A

NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION

## In the spotlight

### Isle of Capri highlights 'Dining in Dixie' event

BY JOAN GANDY  
THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

**NATCHEZ** — The Isle of Capri Casino will take a spotlight Saturday at "Dining in Dixie," a food extravaganza at the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration at the Natchez Convention Center.

For chef Ron Banks and food and beverage manager John Moran, the timing is perfect. Both are new to the casino and like the opportunity to share some of the Isle's best fare with the 500-plus people expected at the event.

"This weekend gives us the opportunity to share what we can do," said Moran, a New York native who has fallen in love with the South.

Banks, who trained at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., considers himself a native of Natchez, though he traveled while growing up in a military family.

He will preside at one of a dozen tables that center on a particular Southern food, each table overseen by top chefs from Mississippi restaurants.

Jack Sours, vice president and general manager at Isle of Capri since early December, said the company likes to take part in community events.

"We're happy to get out in the community," he said. "It sounds like a good event, and we look forward to



Isle of Capri chef Ron Banks, right, and food and beverage manager John Moran talk about the planning that went into Saturday night's Dining in Dixie event.

it." Banks will have grits as his main food. "We'll work with a lot of grits, a Southern favorite," he said. "We'll prepare it in many ways, and it will be presented extremely well. Southerners like a lot of greens and sausages. We'll arrange around some of those foods, also."

Moran said the food fest will "showcase the wonderful talents of our chef as well as the wonderful foods we can provide."

His path to food services came through part-time jobs during college, Moran said. "I was going to school for psychology at St. John's University," he said. "I realized I really enjoyed food service."

Intercontinental Hotels brought Moran south to New Orleans. He

has worked other places since then and has been with Isle of Capri less than six months. He and his wife, Mim, have four children, 24, 22, 15 and 14.

"Our goal here is to bring a quality of food and beverage to rival any casino in the state," he said. "And we can do it. Ron is a consummate professional."

"I've worked in many five-star properties, and the

team here is a good solid crew, really interested in learning how to update some of the old-style Southern cuisine."

For Banks, the memory of his Natchez grandmothers, Schewedia Banks and Fannie Butler, remains strong. "They really impressed me. They raised their own farm animals and vegetables," he said.

Now, he takes the old-time Southern foods and puts new twists on them. "I want to put this place on the Natchez food map," he said of the restaurant at the Natchez Under-the-Hill site. "I want this to be the place where people come to get real Natchez food."

Banks and his wife, Ava, have three children, Victoria, 9, Savion, 8, and Tyler, 6.

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BEN HILLYER | THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

Mayor Phillip West, left, discusses plans for a new condominium project on the site of the old Natchez Pecan Shelling Co. Friday afternoon with Mississippi Department of Archives and History board chairman former Gov. William Winter, right, and board member Duncan Morgan, who is also a Natchez native.

# Winter: City responding to requests

*MDAH chairman tours site of future condo development along Natchez bluffs*

BY KERRY WHIPPLE BEAN  
THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

**NATCHEZ** — State archives and history board chairman William Winter took a look around the controversial pecan factory site Friday.

And the former governor, in town for the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, said he was pleased with the progress city officials are making to ensure the site of future condos on the bluff meets the Department of Archives and History's standards.

"It looks as if our concerns are being addressed," he said.

Archives and history has given the city permission to tear down the pecan factory site, pending a geotechnical review of the stability of the bluffs with the added weight of the five-story condo development.

MDAH's approval is also contingent on the city's submitting construction documents for the complex and evidence of a signed contract before the former Natchez Pecan Shelling Co. building can be demolished.

Winter met Friday afternoon with Mayor Phillip West, city engineer David Gardner, city attorney Walter Brown and fellow MDAH board member and Natchez resident Duncan Morgan.

Winter was familiar with the blufftop site but had not seen it since MDAH began looking at approval of the site. The board decided the

site is a landmark but gave the city permission to demolish it pending the three requirements.

The condo project has inspired some controversy in recent months, first as some residents were unhappy with the mass of the building and later as some opposed the city's initial plans to tear down the building without MDAH approval.

But Morgan said that controversy may have been healthy for the project.

"I feel strongly a lot was accomplished with the friction," Morgan said. "It allows people to give input and work out a compromise."

West told Winter that the condos would likely improve development in that area of downtown.

"We are already beginning to see some impact," he said. "It will prompt a lot of revitalization in this area."

Most recently, some have raised concerns about the stability of the bluffs if the condos are built there, in part prompting MDAH's stipulation for a geotechnical report.

The city had already requested developers Ed Worley and Larry Brown Jr. do an engineering review of the site.

Gardner told Winter the geotechnical engineers working on the project are familiar with the bluff stabilization work, having worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on that multimillion dollar project.

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LITERARY CELEBRATION



BEN HENLEY/THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT  
William Ferris gives Noel Polk a reassuring hug after Polk's impassioned acceptance speech for the Richard Wright award.

# Speakers share jokes, concerns

BY NITA MCCANN  
THE NATCHEZ DEMOCRAT

**NATCHEZ** — The presenting of awards to literary notables Saturday night as part of the 17th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration featured some moments participants won't soon forget.

Recipients of the Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards included:

► William Ferris, longtime director of the Center for Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi and former chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

► Noel Polk, English professor at Mississippi State University and editor of *The Mississippi Quarterly*.

Receiving the Horton Foote Award for Achievement in Screenwriting was Beth Henley, award-winning writer of plays and screenplays including *"Crimes of the Heart"* and *"The Miss Firecracker Contest."*

## Noel Polk

Mississippi should officially recognize its history of violence and oppression along with the positives of its culture and traditions, Polk said.

William Faulkner once wrote that "you don't love because, you love despite," Polk said. "I'm damn tired, bone tired of having to love (Mississippi) despite. I want to love because."

At the first of his speech, Polk read passages from Richard Wright's *"Black Boy,"* passages that told of his having to beg his mostly-absent father for money.

He also read the passages that told of Wright's visiting, and forgiving, his father 25 years later, after time and experience had given him the perspective that was necessary before forgiveness could take place.

He then read from William Faulkner's *"Mississippi,"* which the author bases on himself and his family's servant, using them to tell the story of the races and their interaction in his home state.

In that work, Mammy Callie's running joke with the family she serves is that they owe her \$89 in back wages. But that's Faulkner's



Henley

## SPEAKERS: Ferris said Natchez is rich in memories for him, other state writers

a child and of buying one of his first beloved horses here.

He also told of the characters he has met over the years since then, including Ray Lum, whose oral history he recorded and who became the subject of his book *"Mule Trader."*

Lum's story about having to bid on bulls at an Arkansas auction from the stretcher where he lay — because he was kicked in the back by a mule the day before — is just one of the colorful Lum stories Ferris shared.

Another Mississippi writer who stood apart in his ability to richly craft characters was Richard Wright, Ferris said.

He, like Polk, read the passage that told of Wright's father standing as an old man in fields he had plowed as a

sharecropper, smiling a toothless smile at the sky.

Ferris said he'll always see Mississippi that way, "worlds framed forever by these amazing writers," including Faulkner and author Eudora Welty in that number.

## Beth Henley

In contrast to the night's other two honorees, playwright and screenwriter Henley didn't deliver a speech.

Instead, she let her characters do the talking, reading a passage from her work, *"The Miss Firecracker Contest."*

"The Miss Firecracker Contest" in which a woman struggles to find the words to express her unrequited love.

Later in the evening, Henley was set to speak at a viewing of the movie version of *"Miss Firecracker."*

FROM PAGE 1A

way of saying that what black people in Mississippi have endured costs much more or, in Polk's words, "is irreparable."

Heardening back to Wright's forgiveness of his father, Polk tearfully said he's afraid of the time he and his contemporaries will have to give an accounting to their children and grandchildren "for not making sure they had nothing to forgive (us) for."

## William Ferris

Ferris said Natchez is a place rich in memories for both him and other writers.

Ferris, raised in Vicksburg, told of his memories of travels to Natchez as

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# Mississippi History

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 48 No. 2

# MDAH

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February 2006

### Mississippi's Landscapes: An Environmental History



*Helm, Mississippi, during the 1927 Mississippi River flood, courtesy MDAH collection.*

The Mississippi Historical Society's annual meeting will be held in Natchez **March 2-4**, and the program will explore topics related to **Mississippi's Landscapes: An Environmental History**. Historians James C. Cobb and Pete Daniel will be featured speakers, and tours will visit the William Johnson House and an exhibit, *Natchez in Historic Photographs*. For more information, visit the MDAH Web site home page and click on MHS Annual Meeting or call 601-576-6849.

### History Is Lunch: February

**February 1:** Stuart Rockoff, historian, Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life, "The Fall and Rise of the Jewish South, 1945-2005"

**February 15:** Joyce Dixon-Lawson, MDAH historian, African American Genealogy

**February 22:** Robert Parker Adams, Architect, P.A., "The Restoration of the Eudora Welty House"

The brown bag sessions are held **Wednesdays, noon-1 p.m.**,

at the **William F. Winter Archives and History Building**, 200 North Street, one block off State Street. Drinks are provided. For more information, call 601-576-6857.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Natchez Literary &  
Cinema Celebration  
February 23-26/  
Eudora Welty House  
Opening April 29-30**

### Opening a Time Capsule: The Alfred Holt Stone Collection

Alfred Holt Stone, a Greenville native and prominent racial theorist, assembled during the first decade of the twentieth century a large collection of materials—3004 titles—on "The Negro and Cognate Subjects." African American historian Rayford Logan has described this period as the nadir of race relations in the United States; therefore delving into this collection is like opening a time capsule of a singular period in our nation's history. Stone donated the collection to MDAH in 1942.

In the past researchers have found the valuable collection intriguing but daunting, as the materials were not properly indexed. Now, thanks to efforts of James G. Hollandsworth, former dean of the Graduate School at the University of Southern Mississippi, a carefully annotated index is available in the MDAH Reading Room. The index will be posted on the MDAH Web site as part of the MDAH automated catalog (OPAC) in coming months.

Hollandsworth volunteered a half-day, five days a week, for fourteen months to complete the index. The bibliographic entries and annotations totaled almost 700 manuscript pages of WORD files that can be searched for individual names or words. Hollandsworth also assigned over

7,000 subject codes to individual titles using 550 subject headings that correspond to Library of Congress practice.

Scholars interested in ethnicity and African roots, race relations, slavery and abolitionism, and Jim Crow and civil rights will find the Stone Collection a treasure trove of primary sources.

A symposium beginning at 1 p.m. on April 8 at the William F. Winter MDAH Building, Jackson, will officially welcome the index and also examine the contents of the collection. Anne Webster, MDAH reference librarian, Hollandsworth, and former governor William F. Winter, who knew Stone when Stone was state tax collector in the 1950s, will offer comments.

The symposium's featured speaker will be John David Smith, the Charles H. Stone (no relation to Alfred Stone) Distinguished Professor of American History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Smith's 1985 book *An*

*Old Creed for the New South: Proslavery Ideology and Historiography, 1865-1918* explored racial theories and their impact on the New South. The symposium is free

and open to the public. For more information, please call 601-576-6857.



*James G. Hollandsworth at work on Stone Collection index.*

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file  
NLCC pub**Smith, Carolyn Vance****From:** Smith, Carolyn Vance**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2006 10:42 AM**To:** Natchez Everyone**Subject:** You're invited!

Hello, Everyone at Co-Lin Natchez!

- You are invited!
- You don't have to leave campus to participate!
- And it's all FREE!

Yes, the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is coming to you, right here on the Co-Lin Natchez campus.

Two very special activities planned just for you are part of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, Feb. 22-26, 2006. Most of the conference is held at the Natchez Convention Center, 211 Main Street.

But two special activities will be at Co-Lin Natchez in the **Nelson Multi-Purpose Room**. Wear your Co-Lin name badge, and get in free!

The title of the conference this year is "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

The events on campus are in keeping with the theme. Here they are:

• **11 a.m., Wed., Feb. 22, 2006**

"The Mississippi Hot Tamale Trail," an illustrated lecture by Amy Evans, Associate Director, Oral History Initiative, Southern Foodways Alliance, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, The University of Mississippi. She will discuss the history and prevalence of hot tamales in Natchez, Vicksburg, and the Mississippi Delta. Where did they come from? Who eats them? Why are they so popular? Find out!

This program is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln, Student Support Services at Copiah-Lincoln, and the Natchez

Literary and Cinema Celebration.

As an added attraction, the Co-Lin Natchez cafeteria will offer hot tamales at lunch that day.

2/18/2006

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## Dining in Dixie, with Literary Pretensions Natchez, Miss.

If ever there was a literary event that offered food for thought, the 2006 Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration was surely it. This year exploring the theme *Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in Literature*, the event brings writers, artists, critics and filmmakers from all over the country to explore literature's Southern flavors in Natchez from February 23—25.

But understanding that talking about food never quite completes the picture (kind of like dancing about architecture), the festival puts its money where its mouth is with Dining in Dixie—a full-blown exploration of Southern delicacies at the Natchez Convention Center on Saturday, February 25. There, participants will be falling upon eight tasting stations featuring everything from oysters on the half-shell to fried chicken to tomato aspic to pecan pie. A simultaneous silent auction offers getaway packages, cooking classes, dinners and kitchenware, and raises funds to support the festival's future. 6:15 pm–8:15 pm at 211 Main Street. (866) 296-6522 or [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc). For complete information on the events of the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration see the related article on page 35.

## Mandina's: In BR for Mardi Gras

It's been a long road, but the New Orleans neighborhood mainstay that has been packing 'em in at the corner of Canal and South Cortez streets since 1932 is expected to start doing the same in Baton Rouge early this month. According to Tommy Mandina, the restaurant that bears his name should be open for business on Old Hammond Highway by mid-month. "We're bringing pretty much the entire menu, we'll be able to translate a lot of it," said Mandina, who is the third generation of his family to run the restaurant. That means some ten daily specials, eighteen entrées, a dozen soups and more than forty sandwiches. True to tradition, you won't be able to make a reservation, but Mandina's has taken over the old Chalet Brandt building, so there should be enough room in the bar to enjoy one of those marvelous Old Fashioneds or Bloody Marys while you wait. 7655 Old Hammond Highway. (225) 928-0672. ♦

—James Fox-Smith



Deep South Staples or Hope to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Crisco? of Haute from Soul, on the history, traditions, eccentricities, and absurdities of Southern food

- Carolyn Mescalie of Greenville, Mississippi, and Charlotte Hayes of Washington, D.C., *Boat Dads: An Excess The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Having the Perfect Festival*, with a humorous take on how to die in the Delta
- Martha Foose, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef, Greenwood, Miss., cooking to the blues, a cooking demonstration with music by Duff Dorough, also of Greenwood
- Judy Hood, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston
- Kenneth Hultsch, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of Williams' *Confessions of a Nightingale*, featuring the actor Joe Bonelli
- A panel discussion on the subject of Southern drinks, including moonshine, mint juleps, Coca-Cola, beer, wine and tea by authors and drink experts.
- Several special meals, receptions and parties featuring the best in Southern food and drink.
- Films include Fannie Flaggs' *Fried Green Tomatoes*, Beth Henley's *Miss Firecracker*, and in addition to *Southern Living*, the docu-

February 23—26  
LITERA & LEARNING  
Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls  
Southern Food and Drink in  
Literature, Natchez, Ms  
Always a literary feast for lovers of Southern history, literature and film, this year's Natchez Literary Celebration ups the ante, exploring the place of food and drink in our collective consciousness. The schedule presents three days of lectures, readings, panel discussions, films, and well-attended entertainment events in Natchez.

Taste back in the Deep South! favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, buttered greens, cornbread, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons. With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film.

What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal? That's what the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration sets out to explore. From its headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez, programs will explore all manner of Southern foods and beverages with some of the top scholars

[www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc)

See Other Side

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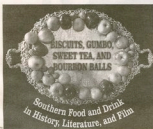




# River Ramblings



## NLCC 2006 — Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film



When mentioned, they actually represent the region. With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film. What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal?

"You can find out at the 2006 Natchez

Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez, Mississippi. In 1990 Smith and Co-Lin founded the NLCC, which has won an Olympic Award, two state tourism awards and

Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomatillo aspic, buttered grits, cornbread, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons.



Jessica Harris

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Mike Graves, General Manager  
Gray Daniels North Nissan  
Jackson, MS

a Mississippi Humanities Council award for outstanding programming.

The Seventeenth Annual NLCC, set for February 23 through 26, brings to life the theme "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Headquarters for the celebration will be the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez. However, the Co-Lin Natchez campus will host the last day of the conference, Feb. 26, which features the Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops.

Throughout the conference, some of the top scholars, authors, historians, and film experts in the country will explore all manner of Southern foods and beverages. "We are very grateful to John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study

of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, for his help in developing the conference program," Smith said.

Edge will speak on fried chicken and other fried foods and will introduce an award-winning documentary film "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue" by Lolis Eric Elie of New Orleans.

Other speakers and topics include the following:

✓ Jessica Harris of New York, author of *Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gifts to New World Cooking* — "Foodways of the American South"

✓ John Egerton of Nashville, author of *Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History, Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing; Generations: An American Family and The*

*continued on page 11*

*Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America* — "Food in Literature, History, and Film"

✓ Amy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance — "Mississippi Hot Tamale Tradition"

✓ Robert St. John of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, author of *Deep South Staples* or *How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup* — "The History, Traditions, Eccentricities, and Absurdities of Southern Food"

✓ Gayden Metcalfe of Greenville, Mississippi, and Charlotte Hays of Washington, D.C., co-authors of *Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral* — a humorous take on "How to Die in the Delta"

✓ Martha Foote, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef of Greenwood, Mississippi — "Cooking to the Blues," a cooking demonstration with music by Duff Dorough, also of Greenwood

✓ Judy Hood, University of Miami — "Food Imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston"

✓ Kenneth Holditch, University of New Orleans — "Food and

Beverage Imagery in Tennessee Williams' Plays," followed by a performance of Williams' *Confessions of a Nightingale*, featuring the actor Joe Bonelli of Jackson, Mississippi, and New Orleans

✓ A panel discussion by authors and drink experts — "Southern Drinks, Including Moonshine, Mint Juleps, Coca-Cola, Beer, Wine and Tea"



feature the best in Southern food and drink; and the event's films include *Fannie Flag's Fried Green Tomatoes*, Beth Henley's *Miss Firecracker*, and the documentaries *Smokeduck Lightning*, *It's Grits*, and *King Cake*.

Besides lectures and films, the conference will offer discussion sessions, book signings, exhibits, special meals, a cooking demonstration, writing workshops, a customized bookshop, receptions, and parties.

Receiving special writing awards on February 25 are William Ferris, former Director of the National Endowment for the Humanities and now a professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Noel Polk, well-published Mississippi State University professor of English; and

Beth Henley of Jackson and Los Angeles, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and film-script writer.

Beth Henley

Sponsors of the conference are founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College along with Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairpersons with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Amoon of MPB. The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter of Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and longtime President of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

Most of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and a matching challenge grant from



William Ferris

the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Information is available by calling toll-free 866-296-NLCC (6522) or 601-446-1289; emailing nlccickets@colin.edu, or visiting [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).



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# The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

"Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls:  
Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film"

Presents

"The Mississippi Hot Tamale Trail"  
By Amy Evans  
*A Pre-Conference Special Event*

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Redd- Watkins Career-Technical Center

Nelson Multipurpose Room

Copiah-Lincoln Community College

Natchez, Mississippi

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# Program

Presiding..... Mr. Merrick Bowie  
Co-Lin Student

Welcome &  
Announcements..... Ms. Gwen S. McCalip  
Acting Dean of Natchez Campus  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Natchez, MS

Introduction of  
Speaker ..... Ms. Donna Smith  
Co-Lin Student

"The Mississippi Hot Tamale Trail" ..... Ms. Amy Evans  
The University of Mississippi  
Oxford, MS

Questions and Answers

Closing

You are invited to attend other Celebration programs at the  
Natchez Convention Center,

Thursday – Saturday, February 23-25, 2006

and at Copiah-Lincoln Community College-Natchez Campus

Sunday, February 26, 2006

**Sessions are free or low cost.**

The NLCC is sponsored by Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National  
Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public

Broadcasting

[www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc)

[nlccickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlccickets@colin.edu)

1-601-446-1289 \* Toll Free 1-866-296-6522

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## ***DINING IN DIXIE***

6:15-8:15 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25, 2006  
Natchez Convention Center, Natchez, Miss.

### **A Fabulous Food Experience**

at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration  
*Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls:*  
***Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film***  
February 23-26, 2006



### ***FOOD STATIONS***

Succulent Seafood  
Southern Fried  
Cajun Country  
Hot Breads

Finger-lickin' Barbecue  
Garden Goodies  
Grits Are Us  
Sweet Things

Plus

- Wine, beer, Coca-Cola products
- Live music by Natchez High Chamber Singers
- Fabulous raffle -- Tickets @ \$10 in the lobby
- Fantastic silent auction with 15 packages -- See inside!

Sponsored by  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi  
Department of Archives and History, and Mississippi Public Broadcasting

*Proceeds from this event benefit a National Endowment for the  
Humanities Matching Challenge Grant to the NLCC.*

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**ZION CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH**  
**228 Martin Luther King Street**  
**Natchez, MS 39120**

presents  
"History's Table of Soul  
Food Favorites"



A Part of  
The 17th Annual Natchez Literary  
and Cinema Celebration

February 24, 2006

6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

Rt. Rev. C.G. Henning, Sr., Bishop  
Rev. George Tyler, Presiding Elder  
Rev. Birdon Mitchell, Pastor

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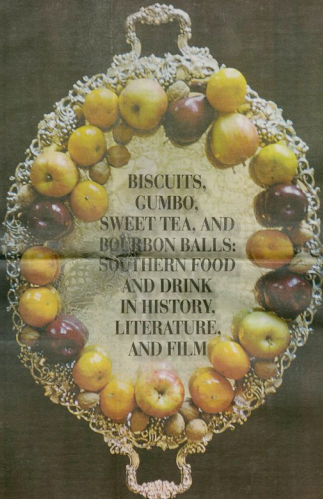
**THE 17th  
ANNUAL  
NATCHEZ  
LITERARY  
AND CINEMA  
CELEBRATION**

**FEB. 23-26, 2006**

**NATCHEZ,  
MISSISSIPPI**

Sponsored by  
Copiah-Lincoln  
Community College,  
Natchez National  
Historical Park,  
Mississippi Department of Ar-  
chives and History, and Missis-  
sippi Public Broadcasting

Funded in part by the National  
Endowment for the Humanities  
through the Mississippi  
Humanities Council



**BISCUITS,  
GUMBO,  
SWEET TEA, AND  
BOURBON BALLS:  
SOUTHERN FOOD  
AND DRINK  
IN HISTORY,  
LITERATURE,  
AND FILM**

The 17th Annual

# Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

presents

## *Dining* *in*



**Saturday, February 25, 2006  
6:15 - 8:15pm**

**Natchez Convention Center  
211 Main Street - Natchez, MS.**

**\$25.00 PER PERSON**

It's a Southern food lover's dream come true ! Don't miss "Dining in Dixie." Eight food stations - Succulent Seafood, Finger-lickin' Barbecue, Garden Goodies, Hot Breads, Cajun Country, Grits Are Us and Sweet Things - All piled high with Southern delights to savor 'til your heart's content.

+

15 Fantastic "Dining in Dixie" Silent Auction Packages to bid on exclusively for "Dining in Dixie" patrons.

**Tickets and Information:**

Call 601-446-1289 OR  
Toll-Free 1-866-296-NLCC  
email [nlcctickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlcctickets@colin.edu)



*The 17th Annual  
Natchez Literary and  
Cinema Celebration*

*Presents*

*Biscuits, Gumbo,  
Sweet Tea and  
Bourbon Balls*

*At*

*The Carriage House  
Restaurant*

*On the Grounds of  
Stanton Hall*

*Natchez, Mississippi*

*Friday, February 24,*

*2006*

*Southern Food and Drink*

*In History, Literature,*

*And Film*

*Headquarters:*

*Natchez Convention Center*

*211 Main Street*

*Natchez, Mississippi*

# \$10.00

# RAFFLE TICKETS

*Proceeds from this raffle will help match the  
National Endowment for the Humanities  
Challenge Grant to  
The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration*  
**\$10.00**

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN**  
*Drawing Saturday, February 25, 2006*

Packages Include:  
Eight-day trip for two on the RIVERBARGE EXPLORER  
Sunset Flight with Borum Aviation  
2006-07 Season Tickets to Natchez Little Theater  
Beautiful Quilt, Collectible Cookbooks, Picnic Supplies,  
Books, Films, and much more

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publicity

Center Advisory Committee Reply Form  
Natchez Meeting, February 24-26, 2005

Name Carolyn Vance Smith

Spouse / Guest \_\_\_\_\_

I / We plan to attend the following events:

\_\_\_\_\_ Dining in Dixie Gala Benefit Reception and Buffet Supper, 6:15 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25.  
\$25 per person. Please mail checks to **NLCC Tickets, P.O. Box 1307, Natchez, MS 39121**. To use a credit card, call 601.446.1289.

\_\_\_\_\_ Breakfast meeting at Elgin Plantation, 9:30 a.m.

Please complete this form and send it (via mail, fax, or e-mail) to the Center by **February 6, 2006**.  
Reservations for all other Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration events can be made  
separately by visiting [www.colin.edu/nlcc/](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc/) or calling 601.446.1289.

Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi, University, MS 38677  
662.915.5814 (fax) • [slyon@olemiss.edu](mailto:slyon@olemiss.edu)



***A GIFT FOR YOU!***

At your convenience during the Natchez Literary and Cinema  
Celebration, stop by the information/ticket desk in the lobby of the  
Natchez Convention Center to pick up your gift.

It is a bottle of specially labeled wine  
from Old South Winery, Natchez, Miss.

**PLEASE PRESENT THIS NOTE TO COLLECT YOUR GIFT.**

***ENJOY!***

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# OPINION

Mississippi's Best Community Daily Newspaper

## NLCC 2006 educational, entertaining

From the moment I was contacted by Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chairman of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, to make arrangements to stay in Natchez in February, I knew the program would be well-organized, educational and entertaining.

I served as the official evaluator of the conference for the Mississippi Humanities Council, a requirement of an annual MHC grant.

The 17th annual NLCC, Feb. 23-26, used a very appealing theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Mrs. Smith set my lodging with a very nice couple, Lucianne and Bernard Wood, who own a guest cottage only five blocks from the Natchez Convention Center.

It was obvious that the entire city of Natchez and its leaders were completely supportive of the events.

I appreciated the organization of the program in that the first lecturers reminded the audience that Southern foods did not simply appear one day. Many cultures have converged and mingled to create those tantalizingly delicious Southern foodways we all hold so dear.

Strolling through history to present traditions and then looking ahead to what foodways legacies are being created today challenged the audience to consider what made something "Southern" and what ingredients or health warning would affect traditional dishes.

Is it truly New Year's Day if one eats turkey bacon as opposed to ham or prepares black-eyed peas from a can instead of with "fat back"?

With each introduction, it was evident all presenters were leading authorities on their topics. When one lecturer asked for the opinion of another seated in the audience, it gave the audience the feeling that this really was almost like a very large conversation, and that encouraged dialogue at the end.

Former Gov. William Winter lent his gentleman's hospitality and grace to many of the presenters' introductions and kept the pace.

I was quite impressed to see that discussions never melted down to simply sharing recipes or a battle over who makes the "most Southern" this or that.

Presenters were made a point to discuss the history behind those ingredients or the culture surrounding the act of food preparation. I especially enjoyed the time spent on exploring the information available in historic cookbooks. I imagine that the common history stu-



### TOP OF THE MORNING

Emily Brown  
Weaver

dent would not have considered such a source for historic information. It was thought provoking, which was the whole point of the Celebration — to encourage thought about foodways.

Outside of the Convention Center, the events were as well organized and hosted as the lectures and films held at the Center.

As tempting as it can be to limit programming for such an event to just the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. workday schedule, Mrs. Smith and her planning committee went above and beyond to include evening

events that encouraged attendees to explore bits of Natchez, too.

All too often with conferences of this nature, attendees are sequestered in one room for the majority of the day and then left to their own devices for evening entertainment. This was not the case with this Celebration.

The major and most obvious strength of this program was how organized each piece was, from the registration process to purchasing and signing a book all the way down to walking outside the Convention Center on Friday afternoon to see the local Mardi Gras parade.

Pulling together literature, film and Southern history to present an entertaining and educational experience is a testament to the diligent planning and execution of this event as well as to the honest integrity of each of the scholars who participated.

The fact that the audience for all the lectures and special events was huge also displays the fact that the program had wide-spread appeal.

One lecturer challenged that all in attendance observe their own communities to see where their history may be soon disappearing and work to ensure that those legacies do not vanish with death. It was an inspiring remark and one I have taken seriously.

Understanding our material culture and shared history through our common foodways builds bridges and makes connections in a world that all too often seeks boundaries.

Food is a common denominator for all genders, generations and groups. It is an excellent way to teach history to children and adults.

This program celebrated food in a wonderful variety of ways and was quite a success at it.

EMILY BROWN Weaver of Delta State University was the official NLCC evaluator for the Mississippi Humanities Council.

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\* WELCOME TO THE \*

# SFA

\*\*\*\*\* SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

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2006, we focus upon the culinary life and legacy of the Gulf South. We will pay homage to the men and women who have

hard to create a strategic plan for SFA. With that plan will come objectives and



I highly recommend falling in love with a city. It's more faithful and stimulating than a man.  
And if you pick the right one, you never have to cook again. — Sarah Dunant

NUMBER 20, WINTER 2006

NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN FOODWAYS ALLIANCE

SFA | HOME

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## Hot Off the Griddle

Thursday, December 15

Food Focus at Feb 23-26 Natchez Lit and Cinema Fest

The 17th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, in Natchez, Mississippi, will explore Southern food. Titled *Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film*, the event will be Feb. 23-26, 2006, at the Natchez Convention Center.

Speakers include, among others, John Egerton, Jessica Harris, Amy Evans, Robert St. John, Martha Foos Gayden Metcalfe, and Kenneth Holditch.

Most of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council at matching challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Information is available by calling toll-free 866-296-NLCC (6522) or 601-446-1289; emailing [nlcc@colin.edu](mailto:nlcc@colin.edu) or visiting the web site: [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).

posted by John T. Edick at 8:21 AM

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The 58<sup>th</sup> Season of the  
**Natchez Little Theatre**



Bluffs & Bayous

Bluff & Bayous  
Theatrical Arts  
www.bluffsandbayous.com

LOVECOMM

Myrtle Corner

RIVER  
107.1

proudly presents

*Weekends of One-Acts*  
*By and About*  
*Tennessee Williams*

Set Design & Construction by Don Vesterse

*27 Wagons Full of Cotton* & *THIS PROPERTY IS CONDEMNED*

Directed by Ryan McGaughey

Friday & Saturday, February 10 & 11, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, February 12, 2006, at 2 p.m.



*Suddenly Last Summer*

Directed by Layne Taylor

Friday & Saturday, February 17 & 18, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, February 19, 2006, at 2 p.m.

*Confessions of a Nightingale*

Starring Joe Bonelli as Tennessee Williams

Saturday, February 25, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 26, 2006, at 2 p.m.



Special thanks to Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration;  
The SHARE Program from Co-Lin & Adams County Youth Court



**Weekends of One-Acts**

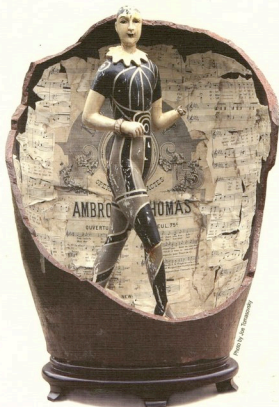
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[www.natchezlittletheatre.org](http://www.natchezlittletheatre.org)

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THE MISSISSIPPI HUMANITIES COUNCIL  
2005 PUBLIC HUMANITIES ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



*'Mignon', from The Katrina Collection, by Lori Gordon*

6:00 P.M.  
HILTON JACKSON  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI  
FEBRUARY 3, 2006

## **Mississippi Humanities Council**

*"The Humanities are for Everyone"*

### **What is the Mississippi Humanities Council?**

The Mississippi Humanities Council is an independent, nonprofit corporation supported primarily by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and also by grants and donations from private foundations, corporations, agencies and individuals. The Council in turn supports a wide range of public humanities programs throughout the state. The Council has administered more than \$13.5 million in federal and privately donated funds for humanities programming in Mississippi since 1972.

### **What are the primary objectives of the Council?**

- To further public knowledge of history, literature, linguistics, ethics, archeology, jurisprudence, classics, languages, criticism and theory of the arts, comparative religion and philosophy.
- To encourage reasonable public discourse.
- To foster critical thinking.
- To strengthen our sense of community.
- To promote understanding of our cultural heritage.

### **Who benefits from Council grants and resources?**

Civic organizations, libraries, church groups, historical societies, schools, colleges, universities, business people - in short, virtually every citizen of Mississippi.

### **Examples of recent projects funded by the Council**

- *Natchez Literary Celebration*
- *Oxford Conference for the Book*
- *Tennessee Williams Festival*
- *Emmett Till Exhibit*
- *MUW Foreign Film Series*
- *Mississippi Humanities Council Speakers Bureau*

### **Why is your support needed?**

Continued financial support from contributors like you allows the Mississippi Humanities Council to continue providing quality humanities programs for all Mississippians.

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# The Colinian

Volume 32, No. 1 • January 2006

## On the cover:

The R.S. Parker Building at Copiah-Lincoln's new Simpson County Center located on Highway 49 at Legion Lake between Magee and Mendenhall.

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Celebrating 25 seasons

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Dedication Ceremonies

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### A "scrumptious" 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration

"Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

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### Natchez Campus

Just A Hometown Doctor

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P.O. Box 649, Wesson, MS 39191  
(601) 643-8332

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## A "scrumptious" 2006 NLCC will explore Southern food, drink in history, literature, film, food

Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons. When mentioned, they actually represent the region.

With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film.

What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal?

"You can find out at the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez. In 1990 Smith and others at Co-Lin founded the NLCC, which has won an Olympic Award and two state tourism awards for outstanding programming.

The 17<sup>th</sup> NLCC is set for Feb. 23-26, 2006, using the theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Headquarters are the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez. A pre-conference session called "The Mississippi Hot Tamale Trail" will be at Co-Lin Natchez at 11 a.m., Feb. 22. This session is co-sponsored by Co-Lin, Student Support Services and the NLCC.

A post-conference session called The Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops will also take place on the Co-Lin Natchez campus on Feb. 26.

Throughout the conference, programs will explore all manner of Southern foods and beverages, Smith said.

"We are very grateful to John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, who helped develop the conference program," Smith said.

Edge will speak on fried chicken and other fried foods and will introduce an award-winning documentary film, "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue," by Lolis Eric Elie, New Orleans.

Other speakers include Jessica Harris of New York, author of *Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gifts to New World Cooking*, on foodways of the American South; John Egerton of Nashville, author of *Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History, Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing, Generations: An American Family, The Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America* on food in literature, history and film Amy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance, on the Mississippi hot tamale tradition, Robert St. John of Hattiesburg, *Deep South Staples or How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup*, on the history, traditions, eccentricities, and

absurdities of Southern food; Gayden Metcalfe of Greenville, MS, and Charlotte Hays of Washington, D.C.,

*Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral*, on how to die in the Delta; Martha Foose, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef, Greenwood, MS., cooking to the blues, a cooking demonstration with music by Duff Dorough, also of Greenwood; Judy Hood, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston; Kenneth Holditch, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of Williams' "Confessions of a Nightingale," featuring the actor Joe Bonelli of Jackson and New Orleans.

A panel discussion on the subject of Southern drinks, including moonshine, mint juleps, Coca-Cola, beer, wine and tea.

Several special meals, receptions and parties featuring the best in Southern food and drink.

Films include Fannie Flagg's "Fried Green Tomatoes," Beth Henley's "Miss Firecracker," and the documentaries, "It's Grits" and "King Cake."

The conference will cover numerous other subjects through lectures, films, discussions, book signings, tastings, special meals, cooking demonstrations, writing workshops, food shows, receptions and parties.

Receiving special writing awards are William Ferris, former director of the CSSC and now at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Noel Polk, Mississippi State University; and Beth Henley, Los Angeles. Prior to the awards ceremony, the CSSC will host a reception at which CSSC Director Charles Reagan Wilson will make remarks.

Sponsors of the conference include founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College, as well as Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairmen with Smith are Keith Whisenant of NNHP, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoin of MPB.

The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, Jackson, former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

Most of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of annual funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For information, call toll-free, 866-296-NLCC (6522) or 601-446-1289; email [Christy.Williams@colin.edu](mailto:Christy.Williams@colin.edu); or visit the web site at [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).



## Tea Cakes

*from*  
Roba Rowe, Bainbridge, Georgia  
*by*  
Fran Mitchell, Homestead, Florida

1 cup butter or shortening  
1 egg  
1 ½ cups sugar  
1 teaspoon vanilla or other flavoring  
2 cups **self rising flour**

*Cream butter and sugar.  
Stir in beaten egg and vanilla.  
Gradually add flour to make soft dough.  
Pinch into small balls.  
Flatten on cookie sheet.  
Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes.*

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## Guava Receipt

*Distillate of summer,  
Elixir of liquid sunlight,  
Squeezed from sultry summer  
afternoons.*

*Cool oasis of the faery kitchen,  
Buckets brimful honey cordials,  
Sun rays through the slatted blinds  
dance copper, silver, crystal.*

*Java drops from porcelain cup,  
Syrup slips from sterling ladle,  
Precious hour of summer shared  
sealed up in mason jars.*

*Jelled jewel, pomegranate,  
Pale peach, pastel,  
Salmon sunset of November sky  
as we walk west.*

Judy Hood



home about projects membership events exhibits press contact us newsletter



## SOFAB Newsletter

February

### Dear Friends

This promises to be an exciting year for SOFAB. We already have plans to exhibit the photography of Amy Evans, and the exhibit, *Come Hail or High Water* is scheduled for late June. More plans are in the works, and we will be revealing them as they develop.

The Southern Foodways Alliance is working to rebuild Willie Mae Seaton's Scotch House, an award-winning restaurant that reflects the heritage of the city of New Orleans. More information about this project can be found at [www.southernfoodways.com](http://www.southernfoodways.com).

This month we inaugurate a regular column that spotlights a restaurant in the South and brings you a recipe. We would love for you to nominate a restaurant that you love, that you think we all need to know about, or that you think is just plain terrific. We'll follow-up from there. Send us your suggestions to [info@southernfoodways.com](mailto:info@southernfoodways.com).

### On the Menu

- Review of Matzoh Ball Gumbo
- Chef John Besh and the Buster Crab "BLT"
- Southern Food, Photos and Festivities
- Red Beans Book to Debut -- Again
- Southern Food in History, Literature and Film

### Chef John Besh and the Buster Crab "BLT"

Since 2002 Chef John Besh, owner and executive chef of Restaurant August, has been dazzling palates in New Orleans and beyond. Besh's tireless efforts to assist in the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina by



### Review of Matzoh Ball Gumbo



By Marcie Cohen Ferris

The depth, insight and breadth of exploration in *Matzoh Ball Gumbo: Culinary Tales of the Jewish South* is astonishing. Anyone who ever doubted that a study of food and foodways is key to the study of all things human, this book will make doubter a believer. The dinner table and the kitchen are a microcosm of the greater world.

Marcie Cohen Ferris manages

# the Southern Register

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN CULTURE • FALL, 2005

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

## Katrina

An ominous foreboding settled upon many of us who live near the Gulf Coast during the last weekend of August. We knew that Hurricane Katrina was out there, stoking its power on the warm Gulf waters, as hurricane forecasters warned that it could be an unprecedented force of hurricane destruction for the United States.

And so it was. The Category 4 Katrina blasted ashore in south Mississippi, leveling buildings blocks inland. The storm surge blew away houses that had survived Mississippi's greatest previous storm, the Category 5 Camille, in 1969. New Orleans did not take the direct blow that had been

feared by its residents, but the next day disaster of a different nature hit—the levees broke and the city flooded.

Like most Americans, those of us in Mississippi were transfixed with the news, watching on cable television the agonizing scenes of suffering people unable to escape the rising waters in New Orleans. We listened to Mississippi Public Broadcasting's coverage that gradually revealed, in the words of officials tending the storm victims, just how awfully the state's coastal communities had been hit.

Oxford experienced pounding rains, howling winds, and power outages but nothing like the rest of the state. The experience of the storm's effects this far

inland connected us, though, to those on the Coast. Jackson, 150 miles from the Coast, was hit hard. Katrina blew with Category 1 winds by the time it reached there, causing extended power outages and physical damage. Hattiesburg, 90 miles southeast of Jackson, suffered massive numbers of downed trees, roof damage, and power outages that lasted weeks. Gasoline shortages soon appeared, making travel difficult.

Inevitably, those of us at the Center and in Oxford began fearing for family and friends, and we exchanged stories. My assistant Sally's parents were trapped in their attic in Gulfport during the storm, feeling its frightening power. I worried about many friends of mine in New Orleans. Two of them, Barbara and Jerry, finally called days later from Barbara's mother's home in Baker, Louisiana, to say they had escaped but feared for their house and were unsure of their immediate future. One former student, Danna, was away from New Orleans, but suffered some damage at her home. I saw other former students, Scott and Ursula, at a coffee shop in Oxford one morning, evacuees who had just bought a house a month before in New Orleans but now were here to wait.

Communities across the nation sheltered such evacuees, and Oxford soon had between 2,000–3,000 new residents, at least temporarily. The



Algiers Ferry, New Orleans, Louisiana

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**Notable Food Movies with a Southern Flavor**  
**From John Egerton**

- \* Gone With the Wind (1939), the Civil War blockbuster—a big Ga. barbecue, pervasive hunger, and Scarlett's vow never to be hungry again.
- \* Imitation of Life (1934), Fanny Hurst novel about race, recipes, privilege; C. Colbert, Louise Beavers; 1959 remake, Lana Turner & Juanita Moore.
- \* Fried Green Tomatoes (1991), Fannie Flagg novel and screenplay—a classic Southern w/Kathy Bates, Mary Masterson, Jessica Tandy; lots of food.
- \* Soul Food (1997), a Southern black family transplanted to Chicago—Irma P. Hall, Vivica Fox, Vanessa Williams; the binding ties of food & family.
- \* Crimes of the Heart (1986), a Beth Henley play overflowing with Southern eccentricity (and food) as sisters S. Spacek, D. Keaton, J. Lange reunite.
- \* Sounder (1972), depression-era La. story, Cicily Tyson, Paul Winfield—sharecropper goes to jail for stealing food, family endures.
- \* Cross Creek (1983), Mary Steenburgen as Marjorie Kennan Rawlings, later to be noted novelist (& cookbook writer)—rural north Fla., 1930s.
- \* Rambling Rose (1991), another 1930s Southern (Ga.), stars Laura Dern as lost soul who goes to work for genteel family headed by Robert Duvall.
- \* The Big Easy (1987), New Orleans crime yarn with lots of La. music, food, excitement, stars Dennis Quaid & Ellen Barkin.
- \* Giant (1956), Liz Taylor, Rock Hudson, James Dean in sprawling Tex. novel by Edna Ferber, features a hunt breakfast, barbecue, brains & eggs.
- \* Elizabethtown (2005), about people in (and gone from) a Ky. town, has a big family meal scene that Paula Deen of Food Network puts on.
- \* Prince of Tides (1991), Pat Conroy novel and screenplay, stars B. Streisand & Nick Nolte; South Carolina and food figure in most of Conroy's work.
- \* Forrest Gump (1994), Tom Hanks is good as mentally challenged Ala. guy, but Mikelty Williamson is too as shrimper Bubba Blue of "Byla Batry."
- \* Ballad of the Sad Café (1991), first a Carson McCullers novella, misfires on screen as Carradine, Steiger, Redgrave fail at playing Southern.
- \* Tomorrow (1972), a Faulkner story superbly written for screen by Horton Foote and acted by Robert Duvall and Olga Bellin.
- \* The Grapes of Wrath (1940), great adaptation of Steinbeck's famed novel, stars Henry Fonda as leader of Okie trek to Calif. in depression.
- \* Places in the Heart (1984), Sally Field & Ed Harris give slice of life in Waxahatchie, Tex., in the 1930s.
- \* All the Way Home (1963), based on James Agee's *A Death in the Family*, set in 1915 Knoxville, starring Jean Simmons & Robert Preston.
- \* The Ponder Heart (2001), made for TV (PBS), based on a Eudora Welty novel, set in small-town Miss. In 1930s.
- \* Passion Fish (1992), soap-opera star, paralyzed in accident, returns to La. to recover; therapy includes cooking food she grew up on.
- \* Cookie's Fortune (1999), Robert Altman in Holly Springs, stirs up mayhem, mystery, catfish enchiladas; Glenn Close and company.

# *In* Co-LiN *The Place to Be* **CO LIN** NATCHEZ

*Campus newsletter - March 9, 2006*



Dr. John W. Gill, dean of the Alcorn State University School of Business, introduces dignitaries during the formal opening of the School of Business March 7 across from the Co-Lin Campus.

## Alcorn formally opens business building

Alcorn State University officially opened its Master in Business Administration Building on March 7. A number of officials from ASU, the Natchez area and Co-Lin attended. Dr. Clinton Bristow, ASU president, praised the partnership between ASU and Co-Lin. The \$10 million building opened for classes last year. It houses 10 classrooms, a library, offices for business use, a lecture hall and an academic center. Several Co-Lin Natchez graduates already are students working toward a bachelor's in business administration degree.

Dr. Jerry Ward reads from Ellen Douglas' latest book, "Witnessing" during the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration.



## Literary Celebration another success

The 17th annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration was a success once again. Several thousand individuals from the Miss-Lou and other parts of the country attended this year's program, Feb. 23 through 26.

The theme was "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Co-Lin is the founder and co-sponsor for the NLCC, which each year has grown in attendance and stature among events in The South.

Several events were held at the Natchez

campus. On Wednesday, Feb. 22, Amy Evans, food historian, presented a lecture and slide show on hot tamales. On Sunday, Feb. 26, Co-Lin hosted the annual Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops, where freelance writer Joseph Dumas, a Natchez native, talked about freelance magazine writing, followed by a lecture by Evans about documenting foodways of The South.

During a break, Dr. Jerry Ward, professor of English at Dillard University, offered readings from Douglas' book, "Witnessing." Douglas was unable to attend because of illness.

## Search on for new Natchez dean

Candidates for the Natchez campus dean's position will be interviewed soon. A committee chaired by Co-Lin Executive Vice President Dr. Ronnie Nettles will conduct the interviews, which should begin after spring break. Nettles was the previous dean, vacating the position in July 2004 when he was promoted to his current position. He works at the Wesson campus.

Other committee members are: Kaye Harris, associate dean for career and technical education; Dr. Bettye Mullen, director of Student Support Services; Linda Davis, business instructor; Jim Wiggins, history instructor, and Pat Cater, dean's secretary.

Acting Dean Gwen McCalip will assist the committee. She has said she would not be a candidate. After a new dean is on board, McCalip will continue her position as director of admissions and records.

"I have been very pleased with the leadership that Mrs. McCalip has provided the past two years," Nettles said. "She has done a wonderful job and we are very fortunate she will continue to be a part of Co-Lin in the future. I am also excited about the new ideas and leadership that a new dean will provide at the Natchez Campus."

Nettles added, "Specifically, all applicants must have a minimum of a masters degree, but we prefer a doctoral degree in higher education administration. We also believe that the successful candidate will have a minimum of two years experience in an area of educational leadership."

A number of candidates within the Co-Lin staff and outside the Co-Lin community have applied.





# New dean visits campus, community

## N-Sights Staff

The Natchez campus incoming dean Teresa Harrison spent three busy days recently visiting the campus and spending time in the community.

Harrison, from her home in Moultrie, Ga., April 28 through 29 to visit in Natchez and meet faculty and staff.

She said one of the attractions of Co-Lin Natchez is that it is, "academically strong, with highly qualified faculty, dedicated and experienced staff, and strong and positive leadership."

Harrison said she expects to relocate sometime in June.

She said that when she officially takes on the duties as dean of the Natchez campus, "My first priority will be getting to know the faculty and staff - discussing their goals and vision for the college."

In addition, she said, "I will be active in maintaining the already strong relationship between the college and the community."

In regard to the community, she said, The people of Natchez are very gracious and welcoming. My first impression was that I was visiting a city that provided the perfect example of "southern hospitality." I had a wonderful visit and am looking forward to living there permanently."

While she was here, Harrison spent time at Beau Pre Country Club for the Sixth Annual Co-Lin Natchez Classic Golf Tournament, which benefits scholarships for Natchez campus students and faculty development projects at the Natchez campus.

She also attended a faculty and staff meeting at the campus and met with representa-

tives of the Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce.

She also was interviewed for a front page story in *The Natchez Democrat*.

In the interview she said, "I'm meeting everyone for the first time. I'm getting a fresh start and so is everyone else. I hope everyone sees that as positive."

Harrison said, "One of the most important things for a person in leadership to do is to value every single person."

She added, "This is a wonderful opportunity for me to combine all my experiences into one leadership role. I really am excited to come to Natchez. I want to know more about Natchez and become immersed in its culture."

"One of the most important things for a person in leadership to do is to value every single person," she said.

Harrison said she wants to become involved in the Natchez community. "I don't consider myself a creative person, but I will like to be involved with some of the festivals in Natchez," she said. "Music always was a stress reliever for me, even when I was growing up."

Harrison is the mother of two sons, John, soon to be 23 and married, and William, 18, who will be a freshman at Mississippi State in the fall.

A native of Mississippi and a graduate of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Harrison is looking forward to returning to her home state.

"I love my boys, love my animals and I'm excited, thrilled and honored to be here and to come back to Mississippi and a school like Co-Lin. It doesn't get any better than this."



Teresa Harrison, right, incoming Natchez campus dean, talks with Carolyn Vance Smith, founder and co-chair of the Natchez Literary and Circus Celebration, during her meeting with campus staff on April 28. N-Sights photo by Dee Ray

## Mullen heading to Alabama

Dr. Betty Mullen, director of Student Support Services, will be leaving Co-Lin Natchez this semester, for a position at an Alabama college.

Mullen has been hired as director of educational support programs at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa,

Ala.

Stillman is a traditionally black private Presbyterian college with an enrollment of approximately 2,000 students.

Mullen has worked at Co-Lin Natchez since 1987. During that time, she has administered significant

growth in Student Support Services. Its federal funding has risen from approximately \$80,000 to more than \$280,000.

Mullen has been advisor to the Student Government Association and has been a key member of the campus Wellness Committee.

## Two teachers honored by chamber

Instructors Jim Wiggins, history, and Linda Davis, business, were honored recently as outstanding instructors.

The awards were presented at the annual Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce Teacher Appreciation Day.

Both Wiggins and Davis are veteran instructors at Co-Lin Natchez and have won a variety of campus awards for their professionalism

and leadership.

At Co-Lin, Wiggins has been advisor to the Scholars Bowl Team and started the Current Issues Discussion Group, which meets on Fridays.

Davis is advisor to the Natchez Campus Chapter of Phi Beta Lambda business club, whose members have earned state and national honors.

"We are fortunate to have such



Davis



Wiggins

outstanding faculty," said Gwen McCallip, acting dean and director of admissions and records.

## LaFrancis selected by MAC as writer-in-residence

Mark LaFrancis, director of public information, was one of four Mississippi writers selected recently by the Mississippi Arts Commission as Writers-in-Residence for the state in 2006. LaFrancis, author of five novels for young readers, is director of public information and journalism instructor.

The Writers-in-Residence were selected to assist with adult literacy programs in Mississippi.

LaFrancis worked this spring with adult GED students in Natchez in a program called All Write! Initiative.

"Mississippi has given the world a wealth of illustrious writers. Through this program, we strive to share that unique contribution with individuals whose goal is to



LaFrancis

increase their reading and writing abilities," said Malcolm White, Commission executive director.

LaFrancis has had a 25-year career in journalism. During those years, he has won local, state and national awards for writing and photography. At Co-Lin he also is advisor to the award-winning college newspaper, N-Sights. During the last five years, he has self-published five acclaimed novels and completed a sixth manuscript. He currently is working on a book of poetry.

# Be a winner: Support raffle benefiting NLCC challenge grant

BY MARIA BOWSER  
RAFFLE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Put your lucky penny in your shoe; tuck your rabbit foot in your pocket; wish upon your lucky star, and pull out your sham-rucks.

When all your lucky charms are in place, buy a Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration raffle ticket for a chance to win one of four spectacular packages. At the same time you will be supporting the NLCC efforts to match its \$300,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Raffle chances are \$10 each. Four winners will be chosen for the following packages:

► **THE RIVER EXPLORER PACKAGE**, valued at more than \$6,000 and donated by the RiverBarge Excursion Lines Inc. of New Orleans, features a trip on the *River Explorer*, the only hotel barge on America's waterways.

The winner can choose a trip for two from an extensive list of itineraries in seven geographic regions. The all-inclusive package includes accommodations with a river-view, all meals, snacks, coffee and soft drinks, all gratuities, taxes, port charges and scheduled shore activities.

► **SUNSET OVER NATCHEZ** includes a sunset flight, courtesy of Ikonix Aviation, and a beautifully crafted picnic quilt donated by Eddie Walker, mother of Carrie Hoofed and a master quilter from Walla Walla, Wash. The package also includes a picnic basket filled with wine and goodies perfect for an evening cocktail party on the bluff. Celebrate with a portrait sitting from T.G. McCarty Photography.

► **BOOKS, MOVIES, THEATER** offers fantastic evening entertainment with two Grand Benefactor Level tickets for the 2006-2007 season from the Natchez Little Theatre. Fly stay-at-home nights, enjoy a wide array of books, movies and CDs featuring winners of the Horton Foote award

for screen writing and others involved with the NLCC, including a script of *Silky Blade* photographed by Billy Bob Thornton. What's a movie without popcorn? Enjoy a microwave full of popcorn, courtesy of Wal-Mart.

► **COLLECTIBLE COOKBOOKS** embrace the 2006 conference's theme of Southern food and drink. This package includes many cookbooks compiled by numerous Natchez organizations, past and present. Some are coffee-table cookbooks and special out-of-print cookbooks donated by Charles Hall of Cover to Cover Books & More. Agrana, cookbook holders and other cooking tools make cooking fun!

The generosity of many people and businesses has made these packages possible. In addition to those already named, thanks go to Uptown Grocery; One-of-a-Kind, Darby's, Blockbusters, Maxwell Printing, Sue Mosser, and my good buddies, the Divine Divas of Raffles, Micki Hartley, Linda Ogden and Shirley Petkovsk.

Now that you are really feeling lucky, how do you go about getting a raffle ticket? Most important, you do not have to be present to win.

Tickets may be purchased in the lobby of the Natchez Convention Center during the NLCC program hours beginning Thurs., Feb. 23, at 8 a.m., until drawing time on Sat. evening, Feb. 25.

You may also purchase raffle tickets by calling 601-445-2153 or stopping at the Natchez-Adams Chamber of Commerce, 211 Main St., the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians, 400 Jefferson Davis Blvd. or Friends Salon, 617 Franklin St. Salon owner Cheryl Tipton won the River Explorer trip last year. She will attest to the value of one ticket!

And just so everyone is a winner, with each raffle ticket comes a coupon good for one free book at the Friends of the Library book sale at Judge George Armstrong Library, 220 S. Commerce St. Lucky or not, who can resist a free book?

## NEH Challenge Grant on schedule to match \$100,000

Money is coming in on schedule to meet a three-year \$100,000 Challenge Grant issued to the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration in December 2003, said Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Co-chairman and grant writer.

"We have raised and invested more than \$35,000 of the required matching money," Smith said. "But we can't stop now. We have to complete the \$100,000 match by July 2006," she said.

"We think we can, because of commitments made by many wonderful people who believe in the NLCC and with proceeds from two fundraisers during the 2006 NLCC."

The two fundraisers are a raffle of four major packages, including an 8-day trip for two on the *River Explorer*, a floating hotel; and a silent auction to take place during "Dining in Dixie," 6:15-8:15 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25, at the Convention Center. (See related stories in this issue.)

The NEH \$100,000 award, plus the required local match of \$100,000, will allow the conference to continue into perpetuity Smith said.

"The grant requires the NLCC to use only the interest generated from the investment," she said. "We are deeply indebted to Natchez Newspapers, Inc., Isle of Capri Casino Inc., the Adams County Board of Supervisors and many other community-

minded supporters who have helped us raise matching funds."

The NLCC was begun in 1990 by Copiah-Lincoln Community College and currently is co-sponsored by Co-Lin, the Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. The conference annually presents a theme-based lecture series enhanced by films, tours, workshops, exhibits, book signings and discussions.

The conference has won an Olympic Award, a Governor's Award, a Mississippi Tourism Award and a Mississippi Humanities Award and has been called by official Mississippi Humanities Council evaluators "Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted to literature, history, film and culture."

"The NEH grant is a huge compliment to Natchez, to Mississippi and to the South," Smith said. "This grant is a national stamp of approval for the NLCC. It recognizes the incomparable contributions of our area's great writers, historians, film makers and scholars."

Joining Smith in praise for the grant is Greg Ties, Natchez resident and New York Times best-selling author.

"A grant like this is a godsend both to Natchez and to the state of Mississippi as a whole," Ties said. "The Literary and

Cinema Celebration has been bringing cultural opportunities to this area that are far too rare in the South, and long overdue. Mississippians of every age will benefit from this NEH grant for decades to come, and I think we all owe Carolyn Vance Smith a deep debt of gratitude."

"This grant will enable the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration to continue the process of using literature and film to build lives and relationships—a valuable gift to the nation," said Clifton Taulbert of Tulsa, a Pulitzer Prize-nominated author and native Mississippian.

Agreeing with Ties and Taulbert is television and film actor Gerald McRaney, a Collins, Miss., native.

"The Celebration is a role model for nationally significant humanities programming," McRaney said. "The cinema side of the Celebration makes it one of the few film festivals that focuses attention on the written word."

"The NEH grant will help enhance the quality and breadth of our programs," McRaney said. "I believe it is money well spent because to have an educated society must first have a literate society."

"What makes the Celebration so special is its combination of fascinating topics and world-class speakers and films. I am honored to serve on the Celebration's Advisory Board and as chairman of the

committee that selects the annual Horton Foote Award for Outstanding Screenplay Writing."

Echoing the compliments is Mississippi Humanities Council Executive Director Barbara Carpenter.

"This award certainly means that beyond Mississippi and the region there is a national appreciation for what the NLCC has done," Carpenter said. "The NLCC is one of the Mississippi Humanities Council's shining stars, and we are delighted to have the NLCC receive this funding to start an endowment that will provide stable footing for the Celebration to continue for many years to come."

The Celebration has reached national and international levels with programming that regularly includes commercial films and educational opportunities. Each year's conference deals with an aspect of Southern history and culture and has included noted speakers Eudora Welty, Margaret Walker, Alexander, William Styron, Willie Morris, Ellen Douglas, Ernest Gaines, Elizabeth Spencer, Nikki Giovanni, Myrlie Everly-Williams, and Maya Angelou; the Richard Wright scholar Michael Faber of Paris; and the historians Robert V. Remini, David Sansing, William Scarborough, John D.W. Guice, Jay Gitlin, John Blassingame, Michael Wayne and Douglas Lewis.

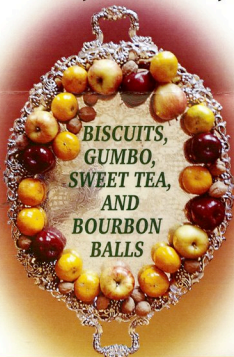
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The 17th Annual

# NATCHEZ LITERARY AND CINEMA CELEBRATION

Thurs.-Sun., Feb. 23-26, 2006

- Lectures
- Films
- Book Signings
- Writing Workshops
- Parties
- Meals



## SPECIAL EVENTS SAT., FEB. 25

5 p.m.

Free awards ceremony  
honoring  
*William Ferris*  
*Noel Polk*  
*Beth Henley*

6:15 p.m.

"Dining in Dixie,"  
a festive party honoring  
the award winners  
(\$25 per person)

Southern Food and Drink  
in History, Literature, and Film

ALL FREE OR LOW COST  
Information & Tickets

Toll-free 866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289  
or visit [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc)

Headquarters:  
Natchez Convention Center  
211 Main Street  
Natchez, Mississippi

Sponsors:  
Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Natchez National Historical Park  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Mississippi Public Broadcasting

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Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea & Bourbon  
Balls  
NLCC 2006



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# OPINION

www.natchezdemocrat.com

Mississippi's Best Community Daily Newspaper

## Event offers opportunity for young writers

**W**hat I do make my stories out of is the whole fund of my feelings, my responses to the real experiences of my own life, to the relationships that formed and changed it, that I have given most of myself to, and so learned my way toward a dramatic counterpart."

In her book, "One Writer's Beginnings," Eudora Welty superbly describes growing up with the burning desire to write as a way to express her feelings and to use her imagination.

She did not set out to become one of Mississippi's foremost writers; yet this inquisitive, studious girl from a sleepy Mississippi town left an indelible mark on the world with her words.

In the same love for writing that empowered Eudora Welty - and the significant group of other Mississippi writers - to blossom, we are announcing a special project for young writers in our area.

It's called "The Chocolate Milk Café: Young Authors Share Food for Thought." Partners in "The Chocolate Milk Café" are Copiah-Lincoln Community College's Natchez Campus, the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration, and the Judge George W. Armstrong Library.

The project is open to all youngsters in grades 5 and 6 in Adams County and Concordia Parish. In those grades, children have begun to craft writing skills and use those skills with excitement and emotion. Also, young writers then begin finding a voice through which they relate their world just as Eudora Welty did.

The project has two interrelated parts.

The first involves youngsters writing, with the guidance of their teachers, prose (short stories, essays, etc.) or poems. More detailed material is being sent to all fifth and sixth grade teachers in public and non-public schools.

The teachers are being asked to nominate five of the best works to a panel of reviewers at Co-Lin. The panel then will select from those



**TOP  
OF THE  
MORNING**

Mark  
LaFrancis

nominations a number of works that are particularly well done.

The second part of the project involves the selected students reading their works on Saturday, Feb. 25, at the Armstrong Library.

The presentations will be in conjunction with the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration whose theme is: "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature and Film." Therefore, all works must relate somehow to food

and/or beverage.

Students who are home-schooled or are taught at small church schools also are eligible and should call me for instructions.

"The Chocolate Milk Café" will be an excellent opportunity for young writers to receive recognition for their talents while letting them explore their own inner worlds as Eudora Welty did, and express themselves in the powerful medium of the written word.

We also plan to publish a booklet of all the works along with a few words about each author. The booklet will be available at the day of "The Chocolate Milk Café" event, which will be open to the public.

The deadline for all work to be submitted to Co-Lin is Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2006.

We are excited about this terrific new opportunity for the young writers in our communities; we hope you are, too. There very well may be some budding Eudora Welyts or Richard Wrights in our midst.

**MARK LAFRANCIS** is director of public information at Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez. He can be reached at 601-446-1205 or by e-mail at: mark.lafrancis@colin.edu.

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file  
NLCC  
publicity

December 7, 2005

To: Members of the NLCC Advisory Board  
From: Carolyn Vance Smith, NLCC Founder and Co-chairman for Copiah-Lincoln Community College  
Re: Items of interest

1. CHECK OUT THE 2006 NLCC BROCHURE! Isn't it gorgeous? Please distribute these brochures to friends and your favorite bookstores and libraries. Encourage people to get a group together to attend.

2. PLAN TO ATTEND the 2006 NLCC, Feb. 23-26, 2006, at the Natchez Convention Center. Advisory Board members will be asked to stand to be introduced as a group two times during the NLCC: (1) 9 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 23, and (2) 5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 25. I hope you can be there.

3. PLAN TO ATTEND the Advisory Board's annual meeting at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 25, 2006, at the Natchez Convention Center's board meeting room on the first floor near the Main Street entrance. This meeting will last about one hour. Afterward, you have a choice.

(1) You can attend "Chocolate Milk Café: Young Writers Share Food for Thought" at the Armstrong Public Library, where a very simple picnic lunch will be served. Grade-school students will read aloud their original winning literary works. Space is limited for this event.

(2) You can have lunch on your own at one of Natchez's fine restaurants. Pick up a list at the NLCC registration desk.

- Please complete the enclosed form and fax or email your response by Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006. Fax is 601-446-1214, and email is nlccickets@colin.edu.

3. Enclosed is a current list of NLCC Advisory Board members. Please check your listing and let me know immediately if there is a change to be made. Email me at carolyn.smith@colin.edu.

4. Please support the NLCC's low-cost ticketed events. To buy online, go to [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc) and click on the ticket page. Or call the NLCC ticket office, 601-446-1289 or toll-free 866-296-NLCC.

5. Especially, PLEASE SUPPORT THE GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION AND SUPPER honoring award winners and speakers, 6:15-8:45 p.m., Sat., Feb. 25, 2006, at The Convention Center. This party, called "Dining in Dixie," features favorite Southern foods, drinks, live music, silent auction, and raffle. Cost is \$25 per person. Get a group and have fun!

6. Good news: The NLCC's \$100,000 National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant for Local History is on schedule with raising matching dollar-for-dollar funds. However, we need your help to complete this project by July 2006. Please think of ways to help us raise the funds.

7. The 18<sup>th</sup> annual NLCC is set for Feb. 22-25, 2007, using the title "Southern Accents: Language in the Deep South." Please send suggestions for speakers and program topics to me right away.

Thank you for assisting us with the Celebration. I hope to see you in Natchez in February!

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# NLCC serves up scrumptious program for 2006

Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons. When mentioned, they actually represent the region.

With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film.

What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal?

"You can find out at the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez. In 1990 Smith and others at Co-Lin founded the NLCC, which has won an Olympic Award and two state tourism awards for outstanding programming.

The 17th NLCC is set for Feb. 23-26, 2006, using the theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Headquarters are the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez, Miss. A pre-conference session called "The Mississippi Hot Tamales Trail" will be at Co-Lin Natchez at 11 a.m., Feb. 22. This session is co-sponsored by Co-Lin, Student Support Services and the NLCC. This free event is open only to Co-Lin students, faculty and staff.

A post-conference session called The Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops will also take place on the Co-Lin Natchez campus on Feb. 26. Throughout the conference, programs will explore all manner of

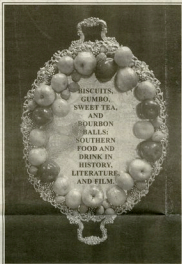


Photo illustration by Ben Milroy, The Natchez Democrat

Southern foods and beverages, Smith said.

"We are very grateful to John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, who helped develop the conference program," Smith said.

Edge will speak on fried chicken and other fried foods and will intro-

duce an award-winning documentary film, "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue," by Lolis Eric Elie, New Orleans.

Other speakers are:

\* Jessica Harris, author of "Hot Pots and Wooden Spoons: Africa's Gifts to New World Cooking," on foodways of the American South

\* John Egerton, author of

"Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History," "Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing," "Generations: An American Family," "The Americanization of Dixie: The Southwesternization of America" on food in literature, history and film

\* Andy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance, on the Mississippi hot tamales tradition

\* Robert St. John, "Deep South Staples or How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup," on the history, traditions, eccentricities, and absurdities of Southern food

\* Gayden Mentele, Greenville, Miss., and Charlotte Hays, Washington, D.C., "Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Funeral," with a humorous look at dying in the Delta

\* Martha Foster, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef, Greenwood, Miss., cooking to the blues, a cooking demonstration with music by Duff Derrig, also of Greenwood

\* Judy Hoad, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston

\* Kenneth Holdick, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of Williams' "Confessions of a Nightingale," featuring the actor Joe Boswell

A panel discussion on the subject of Southern drinks, including moonshine, mint juleps, Coca-Cola, beer, wine and tea

Several special meals, receptions and parties featuring the best in Southern food and drink

Films include Fannie Flagg's "Fried Green Tomatoes," Beth Henley's "Miss Firecracker," and

two additional documentaries, "It's Gits" and "King Cake."

The conference will cover numerous other subjects through lectures, films, discussions, book signings, special meals, a cooking demonstration, writing workshops, exhibits and receptions.

Receiving special writings awards are William Ferris, former director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and now at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Noel Polk, Mississippi State University; and Beth Henley, Los Angeles. Prior to the awards ceremony, the CSAC will host a reception at which CSAC Director Charles Rangan Wilcox will make remarks.

Sponsors of the conference include founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College, as well as Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairmen with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of Natchez, Jan Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoin of MPB.

The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, Jackson, Miss., former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

Most of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of annual funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For information, call toll-free, 866-296-NLCC (6522) or 601-446-1289; email [nslcc@copiahlincoln.edu](mailto:nslcc@copiahlincoln.edu); or check the web site: [www.ccln.edu/nlcc](http://www.ccln.edu/nlcc)

## Celebration is 'unique among humanities programs'

"Reader, Rite! and Rejoice!" That's what the "Three R's" stand for in Natchez.

So says Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

"Since it began in 1990, the Celebration has attracted hundreds — sometimes thousands — of people each year," Smith said. "All of them love to read and rejoice over books."

Cost of each year's five-day literary and cultural event is very low,

Smith said, because of the hard work from the four sponsoring agencies, Copiah-Lincoln, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. "We are also grateful for generous grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and corporate and business donors," she said.

"Because of this, plus widespread volunteerism, we can keep our lectures free," Smith said. "And we price all meals, tours and other spe-

cial activities at low cost."

Conference co-chairmen with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins, superintendent of the NNHP, Jim Barnett of the MDAH and Marie Antoin, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

The Celebration annually features about a dozen lectures by nationally known scholars and writers, enhanced by related films, tours, book signings, exhibits, plays, readings, concerts, entertainments and meals.

"The Literary/Cinema Celebration

proves that people hunger after top-quality conferences devoted to literature, history and the arts," previous co-chairman, Bob Dodson said.

And top-quality it is, according to Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the history department at Mississippi State University, one of many who attend each year.

"The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is unique among humanities programs," Lowery said. "It is beyond question the best program I have been part of during many years of involvement

in Mississippi and elsewhere.

The conference has won many awards, including the Governor's Award for Tourism Achievement, a Cultural Olympiad award for outstanding programming from the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, the Most Outstanding Festival or Event in Mississippi from the Mississippi Tourism Commission, and the Public Humanities Achievement Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

academic  
pinnacle

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Natchez Literary  
and Cinema  
Celebration

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KATRINA  
and  
C.O.L. Inside

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comments  
and photos

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# NLCC serves up scrumptious program for 2006

Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gumbo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons. When mentioned, they actually represent the region.

With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and films.

What do these foods and beverages tell about the South? What do their history and regional variations reveal?

"You can find out at the 2006 Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration," said Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez. In 1990 Smith and others at Co-Lin founded the NLCC, which has won an Olympic Award and two state tourism awards for outstanding programming.

The 17th NLCC is set for Feb. 23-26, 2006, using the theme, "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film."

Headquarters are the Natchez Convention Center in downtown Natchez, Miss. A pre-conference session called "The Mississippi Hot Tamale Trail" will be at Co-Lin Natchez at 11 a.m., Feb. 22. This session is co-sponsored by Co-Lin, Student Support Services and the NLCC. This free event is open only to Co-Lin students, faculty and staff.

A post-conference session called "The Ellen Douglas Writing Workshops" will also take place on the Co-Lin Natchez campus on Feb. 26.

Throughout the conference, programs will explore all manner of

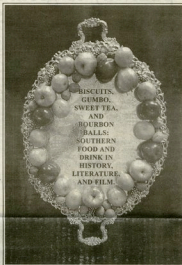


Photo Illustration by Ben Hillper, *The Natchez Democrat*

Southern foods and beverages, Smith said.

"We are very grateful to John T. Edger, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, who helped develop the conference program," Smith said.

Edger will speak on fried chicken and other traditional foods and will intro-

duce an award-winning documentary film, "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue," by Leticia Eric Elie, New Orleans.

Other speakers are:  
\* Jessica Harris, author of "Iron Pots and Wooden Spoons: Adick's Gifts to New World Cooking," on foodways of the American South  
\* John Egerton, author of

"Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History," "Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing," "Generations: An American Family," "The Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America" food in literature, history and film

\* Amy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance, on the Mississippi hot tamale tradition

\* Robert St. John, "Deep South: Staples or How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup," on the history, traditions, eccentricities and whimsies of Southern food

\* Gayden Metzelle, Greenville, Miss., and Charlotte Hays, Washington, D.C., "Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Hosting the Perfect Potluck," with a humorous look at dying in the Delta

\* Martha Foote, Viking Cooking School Executive Chef, Greenwood, Miss., cooking to the blues, a cooking demonstration with music by Jeff Dougherty, also of Greenwood

\* Judy Hood, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston

\* Kenneth Holmich, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of Williams' "Confessions of a Nightingale," featuring the actor Joe Bonelli

A panel discussion on the subject of Southern drinks, including moonshine, mint juleps, Coca-Cola, beer, wine and tea

Several special meals, receptions and films featuring the best in Southern food and drink

Films include Fannie Flagg's "Fried Green Tomatoes," Beth Henley's "Miss Firecracker," and

two additional documentaries, "It's Grits" and "King Cole."

The conference will cover numerous other subjects through lectures, films, discussions, book signings, special meals, a cooking demonstration, writing workshops, exhibits and receptions.

Receiving special writing awards are William Ferris, former director of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture and now at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Noel Polk, Mississippi State University; and Beth Henley, Los Angeles. Prior to the awards ceremony, the CSSC will host a reception at which CSSC Director Charles Reagan Wilson will make remarks.

Sponsors of the conference include founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College, as well as Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairmen with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of Natchez, Jim Barnett of MDAH and Marie Antoinette of MPA.

The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, Jackson, Miss., former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

One of the NLCC is free of charge, in part because of annual funding by the Mississippi Humanities Council and a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For information, call toll-free, 866-296-NLCC (85222) or 601-445-1289; email nlcc@ccol.edu; or visit our web site: [www.ccol.edu/nlcc](http://www.ccol.edu/nlcc)

## Celebration is 'unique among humanities programs'

"Render, Ritz and Rejoice!" That's what the "Three R's" stand for in Natchez.

So says Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration founder and co-chairman Carolyn Vance Smith of Copiah-Lincoln Community College in Natchez.

"Since it began in 1990, the Celebration has attracted hundreds—sometimes thousands—of people each year," Smith said. "All of them love to read and rejoice over books."

Cost of each year's five-day literary and cultural event is very low,

Smith said, because of the hard work from the four sponsoring agencies, Copiah-Lincoln, the Natchez National Historical Park, the Mississippi Department of Archives and Mississippi Public Broadcasting. "We are also grateful for generous grants from the Mississippi Humanities Council and corporate and business donors," she said.

"Because of this, plus widespread volunteerism, we can keep our lecture free," Smith said. "And we price all meals, tours and other spe-

cial activities at low cost."

Conference co-chairmen with Smith are Kathleen Jenkins, superintendent of the NHRP, Jim Barnett of the MDAH and Marie Antoinette, executive director of Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

The Celebration annually features about a dozen lectures by nationally known scholars and writers, enhanced by related films, tours, book signings, exhibits, plays, readings, concerts, entertainments and meals.

"The Literary/Cinema Celebration

proves that people hunger after top-quality conferences devoted to literature, history and the arts," previous co-chairmen, Bob Dodson said.

And top-quality is, according to Dr. Charles Lowery, chairman of the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games, the Most Outstanding Festival or Event in Mississippi from the Mississippi Tourism Commission; and the Public Humanities Achievement Award from the Mississippi Humanities Council.

"The Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration is unique among humanities programs," Lowery said. "It is beyond question the best program I have been part of during many years of involvement



# Community Heritage Grant Awards

Eleven preservation and restoration projects from Corinth to the Gulf Coast have been awarded a total of \$2,948,000 in the fourth year of a grant program administered by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. The Community Heritage Preservation grant program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools and, in Certified Local Government communities, other historic properties.

The Department of Archives and History received seventy-five applications requesting nearly \$21 million. Over the life of the program the department has awarded more than \$18 million in Community Heritage Preservation grants to eighty-nine projects. Ten of the eleven properties receiving grants in this round are listed on or have been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, and two are also National Historic Landmarks—Beauvoir, in Biloxi, and the L.Q.C. Lamar House, in Oxford. Properties affected by Hurricane Katrina—Beauvoir, the Ocean Springs Community Center, and the Old Hattiesburg High School—were the recipients of \$900,000 in grants.

"This program has been crucial in preserving historic structures across the state, and we are grateful to the Legislature for continuing to fund it," said H.T. Holmes, director of the Department of Archives and History. "The response from the public has been overwhelming, and we only regret that we could not have funded more of these worthy projects."

The grant awards are as follows:

**Alcorn County Courthouse, Corinth**—\$80,000. Applicant: Alcorn County Board of Supervisors. For exterior restoration and repair to the second-floor interior.

**Mary Ricks Thornton Cultural Center, Kosciusko**—\$113,000. Applicant: Kosciusko-Attala Historical Society. For exterior and interior restoration, including painting, window, electrical, and lighting repair.

**Copiah County Courthouse, Hazlehurst**—\$475,000. Applicant: Copiah County Board of Supervisors. For exterior and interior restoration, including the restoration of the courtroom and rotunda and replacement of non-historic windows.

**Old Hattiesburg High School, Hattiesburg**—\$400,000. Applicant: City of Hattiesburg. For exterior repairs and stabilization, including roof repair.

**Beauvoir, Biloxi**—\$300,000. Applicant: Mississippi Division of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans. For exterior repairs, including roof and gallery repairs.

**Flannigan-Lowry House, Jackson**—\$150,000. Applicant: Mississippi Heritage Trust and the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. For structure relocation and stabilization, including a new foundation and electrical work.

**Ocean Springs Community Center, Ocean Springs**—\$200,000. Applicant: City of Ocean Springs. For interior restoration, including conservation of the Walter Anderson murals.

**L.Q.C. Lamar House, Oxford**—\$390,000. Applicant: Oxford-Lafayette County Heritage Foundation. For exterior and interior restoration, including roof, wood, masonry, window, and door repair.

**Monroe County Courthouse, Aberdeen**—\$420,000. Applicant: Monroe County Board of Supervisors. For exterior restoration, including courtroom restoration, masonry, window, and door repairs, and electrical and mechanical upgrades.

**Old Tippah County Jail, Ripley**—\$115,000. Applicant: Tippah County Board of Supervisors. For exterior and interior

restoration, including roof and window repair.

**Afro-American Sons and Daughters Hospital, Yazoo City**—\$300,000. Applicant: Afro-American Sons and Daughters Hospital Foundation. For exterior and interior restoration.

The Board of Trustees of the Department of Archives and History determined the grant recipients at a special meeting on December 9. In evaluating the grants the board attempted to balance the geographical distribution of the awards. Grant awards are paid on a reimbursable basis upon the successful completion of the entire project or at the time of the completion of pre-established phases of the project. A cash match of at least 20 percent must be provided, and prior to application all buildings must have been designated Mississippi Landmarks under the provisions of the State Antiquities Law. For more information call 601-576-6850 or visit the MDAH site, [mdah.state.ms.us](http://mdah.state.ms.us).

## Rednecks, Redeemers, and Race: Mississippi After Reconstruction, 1877—1917

by Stephen Cresswell

Third Volume, Heritage of Mississippi Series

April 2006  
University Press of Mississippi for the Mississippi Historical Society

Soon available at the  
Old Capitol Shop  
Winter Building

## NLCC Focus: Southern Food and Drink

The 17th Annual Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration will be held February 23–26, with headquarters at the Natchez Convention Center. This year's theme is "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature, and Film." Presenters include southern writers/food enthusiasts John T. Edge, John Egerton, Kenneth Holdich, and Robert S. John; and famous southern cooks Gayden Metcalfe, Charlotte Hays, and Martha Foose. A panel of seasoned experts will discuss "Drinks in the American South," and winners of this year's Richard Wright Literary Excellence Awards and Horton Foote Screenplay Writing Award will be celebrated.

*Confessions of a Nightingale*, by Tennessee Williams, will be presented, and three films, *King Cake*, *Fried Green Tomatoes*, and *Miss Firecracker*, will be shown. Novelist Ellen Douglas will conduct writing workshops, and music, receptions, and meals are scheduled.

Most sessions are free, but some events require tickets. For a full schedule and registration form, visit [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc) or email [nlccickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlccickets@colin.edu). MDAH is a cosponsor of this event.

## Eudora Welty House: In Progress

While the Eudora Welty House is being repaired, take an online tour of the house at <http://mdah.state.ms.us>. See the rooms where Welty lived and worked for over sixty years. The tour also offers informative text and many photographs of the writer and her family and friends.

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# Friends of Library hosts successful tour of holiday homes

**T**he Christmas Tour of Homes sponsored by the Friends of the Library last month was very successful.

We had record breaking crowds, in spite of the rainy weather. We almost ran out of food at the Refreshment Center. We don't know what we would have done if the weather had been sunny, and we'd had more visitors.

We want to thank the members of the community for their support.

We also wish to thank the homeowners who opened their homes to all those muddy feet: Bridget and Glenn Green, Beaumont; Carol and Braxton Hobdy, Hobdy-Riparian House, and Joe Stone, the Stone House.

The houses were each decorated beautifully for the Holidays, and each offered something unique.

Plans are already underway for the 2006 Christmas Tour of Homes, although the 2005 Tour will be hard to top.

Thanks to the funds generated by this event, the Friends will purchase a new security system for your library.

If you've been in the library, you should have noticed that you have to pass through a security gate to enter and exit the building.

That gate functions sort of like the gate at the airport. If you take a book out of the library without checking it out, it triggers an alarm.

This system was probably first installed in the 1980's and definitely needs updating.

In fact, we can no longer even buy parts for it, and it frequently breaks down. It

*What's happening!*  
**@your library**

will be really nice to have a new, dependable system, and we will be better able to protect our books and other materials.

## **Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration**

In February, the Friends of the Library will sponsor the Chocolate Milk Café: Young Writers Share Food for Thought, Readings of Original Works by Miss-Lou Students during the at the Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration. Check back for more information related to this event.

## **New look for first floor**

Also in February, your library will be redesigning the layout of the first floor, which will include some new furniture.

We hope to accomplish this over a weekend, but it might be necessary to close for a day. We'll let you know later.

## **Library information**

The Natchez Adams Wilkenson Library Service consists of three branches: Armstrong Library in Natchez (the headquarters of the library system), Van Cleave Library in Centerville, and Woodville Public Library in Woodville.

The Armstrong Library is located at 220 South Commerce in Natchez, and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. You can call us at 601.445.8862 or visit us online [www.naw.lib.ms.us](http://www.naw.lib.ms.us).

# A "scrumptious" 2006 NLCC will explore Southern food, drink in history, literature, film

Taste buds in the Deep South favor biscuits, gambo, sweet tea, bourbon balls, fried chicken, tomato aspic, buttered grits, cornbread, sweet potatoes, turnip greens, pecan pie, mint juleps and other foods and beverages so popular they have become icons. When mentioned, they actually represent the region. With striking symbolism and emotional weight, food and drink show up everywhere in Southern history, literature and film.

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Throughout the conference, programs will explore all manner of Southern foods and beverages by some of the top scholars, authors, historians and film experts in the country, Smith said.

"We are very grateful to John T. Edge, Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at Ole Miss, for his help in developing the conference program," Smith said.

Edge will speak on fried chicken and other fried foods and will introduce an award-winning documentary film, "Smokestack Lightning: A Day in the Life of Barbecue," by Lolita Eric Ellis, New Orleans.

Other speakers are:

\* Jessica Harris of New York, author of *Iron Pans and Wooden Spoons: Africa's*

*Gifts to NewWorld Cooking, on foodways of the American South*

\* John Egerton of Nashville, author of *Southern Food: At Home, on the Road, in History, Cornbread Nation 1: The Best of Southern Food Writing, Generations: An American Family: The Americanization of Dixie: The Southernization of America on food in literature, history and film*

\* Amy Evans, also of the Southern Foodways Alliance, on the Mississippi hot tamale tradition

\* Robert St. John of Hattiesburg, *Deep South Staples or How to Survive in a Southern Kitchen Without a Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup, on the history, traditions, eccentricities, and absurdities of Southern food*

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## NLCC

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\*Gayden Metcalfe of Greenville, Miss., and Charlotte Hays of Washington, D.C., *Being Dead Is No Excuse: The Official Southern Ladies Guide to Boasting the Perfect Funeral*, with a humorous take on how to die in the Delta

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\* Judy Hood, University of Miami, on food imagery in the works of Zora Neale Hurston

\* Kenneth Holditch, University of New Orleans, on food and beverage imagery in Tennessee Williams' plays, followed by a performance of

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Besides lectures and films, the conference will offer discussion sessions, book signings, exhibits, special meals, a cooking demonstration, writ-

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Receiving special writing awards Feb. 25 are:

\* William Ferris, former director of the National Endowment for the Humanities and now a professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

\* Noel Polk, well published Mississippi State University professor of English

\* Beth Henley of Jackson, Miss., and Los Angeles, a Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and filmmaker

Sponsors of the conference are founding sponsor Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi Department of Archives and History and Mississippi Public Broadcasting.

NLCC co-chairmen with

Smith are Kathleen Jenkins of NNHP, Jim Hansen of MDAH and Marie Antoon of MBP.

The annual NLCC Director of Proceedings is William F. Winter, Jackson, Miss., former governor of Mississippi and longtime president of the MDAH Board of Trustees.

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# Taste of the South

## This year's NLCC to focus on food, literature

SPECIAL TO THE DEMOCRAT

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Other speakers are:

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## BOOK IT!

NATCHEZ LITERARY AND  
CINEMA CELEBRATION



Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea,  
and Bourbon Balls:  
**SOUTHERN FOOD AND  
DRINK IN HISTORY,  
LITERATURE, AND FILM**  
Feb. 23-26, 2006

Natchez Convention Center  
Natchez, Miss.

Programs about food and drink  
by nationally known scholars,  
writers, and film experts, plus:

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### SPONSORS

Copiah-Lincoln Community College,  
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Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History, Mississippi Public Broadcasting  
Supported by MS Humanities Council

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It's all here in

*Natchez*



### Mardi Gras Natchez Style

Brightly lit, beautifully decorated floats parade through downtown Natchez.

February 17 - Krewe of Alpheus Parade

February 24 - Krewe of Phoenix Parade

### 3rd Annual Mid-Winter Garden Seminar

January 27- 28

The Natchez Garden Club will host "Collections of a Southern Garden". Arranging, planting, and designing for the Southern garden. The event encompasses a day and a half seminar with workshop activities.

### Literary & Cinema Celebration

February 22 - 26

"Mississippi's most significant annual conference devoted  
to literature, history, and culture."

**February 23—26  
LITERA & LEARNING  
Sweet Tea and Bourbon  
Balls: Southern Food  
and Drink in Literature,  
Natchez, Ms**

Always a literary feast for lovers of Southern history, literature and film, this year's Natchez Literary Celebration ups the ante, setting out to explore the place of food and drink in our collective consciousness. The schedule presents three days of lectures, readings, panel discussions, films, and, yes, plenty of well-catered entertainment events, in Natchez.

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file Rubbing 06  
NLCC

Smith, Carolyn Vance

From: Smith, Carolyn Vance

Sent: Sunday, January 15, 2006 5:17 PM

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Subject: Helping with the 2006 NLCC

Hello, Members of the Advisory Board of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration!

I am writing about the 17<sup>th</sup> annual NLCC, Feb. 23-26, 2006. We need your help.

1. Please, if you have not already responded, by Jan. 18 tell me if you will attend the Advisory Board meeting at the Natchez Convention Center at 11:30 a.m., Sat., Feb. 25. Also tell me if you plan to attend the children's writing program at the Armstrong Library at 12:30 p.m. and have a sandwich lunch there. I must turn in a number right away because space is limited.
2. Help us promote attendance at "Dining in Dixie," this year's fundraiser at the Natchez Convention Center. It will be festive and fun. It costs only \$25 per person.

This buffet party will have eight food stations, wine, beer, soft drinks, live music, a raffle, and a silent auction with fabulous packages, including weekends in Memphis, New Orleans, Natchez and more.

Some NLCC Advisory Board members have already bought tickets or contributed financially to the Celebration. They suggest that all board members should consider being responsible for at least four tickets (or \$100). We want to sell 400 tickets, and your help will go a long way.

Here is an idea: Tell people the tickets are perfect as a Valentine's gift. This is a party where many happy memories will be made!

To buy tickets, call toll-free, 866-296-6522 or 601-446-1289, or go email [nlccickets@colin.edu](mailto:nlccickets@colin.edu), or send your check to NLCC, PO Box 1307, Natchez, MS 39121. Put on the check what it is for.

3. Help us publicize the entire NLCC agenda by sending a note to all on your email address list, inviting them to attend and telling them to check out the conference on its web site: [www.colin.edu/nlcc](http://www.colin.edu/nlcc).

I hope to see you in Natchez Feb. 23-26!! Let me know if I can be of help to you. Thank you for all you are doing for the NLCC.

Carolyn Vance Smith  
 Founder and Co-chairman, Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration  
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# OPINION

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006

## Travel writer to speak at dinner

The Natchez Historical Society is holding its annual dinner Jan. 24. The dinner starts at 7 p.m. in the ballroom at the Eola Hotel. The cost of the dinner is \$20 per person. The special speaker is the award-winning Mississippi travel writer Sylvia Higginbotham. Sylvia is the author of *The Insiders Guide to Mississippi*, *Marvelous Old Mansions* and other Southern Treasures, *Reflections: Homes and History of Columbus, Mississippi, Grits and Greens & Mississippi Things*, and *Time Passages*. She also co-wrote the play *Mississippi Music and Magic* with Tom Hatcher. As well as her authoring numerous books, she has been published in over 100 newspapers, magazines and travel publications.

Sylvia Higginbotham, when she is not busy writing, is the executive director of the Columbus Arts Council. Her numerous talents were rewarded in 1986 with the Governor's Award for Tourism Achievement, and in 1994 with the Governor's Travel Media Award for travel writing.

The yearly dues for the Natchez Historical Society are \$10 per person or \$20 per family. The Society meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month from January to May, and then again from September to December. The Society's first meeting in January is the yearly membership dinner; in May the Society hosts a picnic; and in December celebrates the season with a Christmas Party. The regular monthly meetings include a guest speaker along with a social time and refreshments. The Natchez Historical Society in March begins a new annual lecture series: *The Grace MacNeil Lecture*. These lectures will feature high profile speakers funded by a generous gift by the late Grace MacNeil.



### TOP OF THE MORNING

Richard  
Branyan

On March 21st the first speakers of this series are Millsaps College Professor Suzanne Marrs, writer of *Eudora Welty: A Biography*, and Susan Haltom, Garden Restoration Consultant for the Eudora Welty House. This lecture is free to the public.

The Natchez Historical Society has had a busy couple of years.

Since 2004, the society has published *The Natchez Area Families Book*, dispersed the Natchez Printing collection, Christine Pike, funded by the NHS, has transcribed numerous important antebellum court records, and the Society has its own web site, [www.natchezhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.natchezhistoricalsociety.org), designed by Casey Hughes, a NHS board member. A wide variety of speakers have been featured, including television personality Walt Grayson, photographer C.C. Lockwood, Professor Jim Wiggins and writer Alan Huffman. Picnics have been held at Brandon Hall and Jefferson College.

During the past two years we have supported the Natchez Literary Festival and donated to the restoration of Ellicott Hill and Raymond Hall at Jefferson College.

Both books published by the Natchez Historical Society, *Natchez Images* from the Natchez Printing Company and *Natchez Area Families* are available from the Society. For reservations for the dinner or for more information, call 601-442-2617.

RICHARD BRANYAN is president of the Natchez Historical Society.

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To: Center Advisory Committee  
From: Charles Reagan Wilson  
Subject: 2006 Natchez Meeting and Good News  
Date: January 18, 2006

Greetings and Happy New Year!

First of all, we have good news to announce. We have raised the \$500,000 matching funds for the Hardin Foundation grant of \$250,000 to establish an Endowment for the Future of the South.

I want to thank all of you for your support as we have worked to achieve this goal. Your financial support obviously has been key, and we appreciate your moral support along the way. We will continue to raise funds to expand the Endowment, but obtaining the full Hardin funding is a landmark.

We also want to acknowledge Don Frugé Sr. and the University of Mississippi Foundation, which provided a significant amount of funding at the end of 2005 to ensure we made the match. We appreciate this indication of the University's support of Center work.

Thanks to the Endowment for the Future of the South, we have already held two significant meetings. In 2004 we gathered together a distinguished group of Southern leaders for a reunion of the L. Q. C. Lamar Society and a discussion of "The American South, Then and Now." In December 2005 we sponsored the Katrina: The Future of the Gulf Coast Conference, a timely discussion of the aftermath of the tragic hurricane. I'm enclosing a program from that meeting.

It's time now to plan for our next committee meeting, which will be Sunday, February 26, in Natchez as part of the Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration. This year's conference theme is "Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea, and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food

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